

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Helping families simplify the charter application process
Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:49:03 PM

Great Public Schools Now



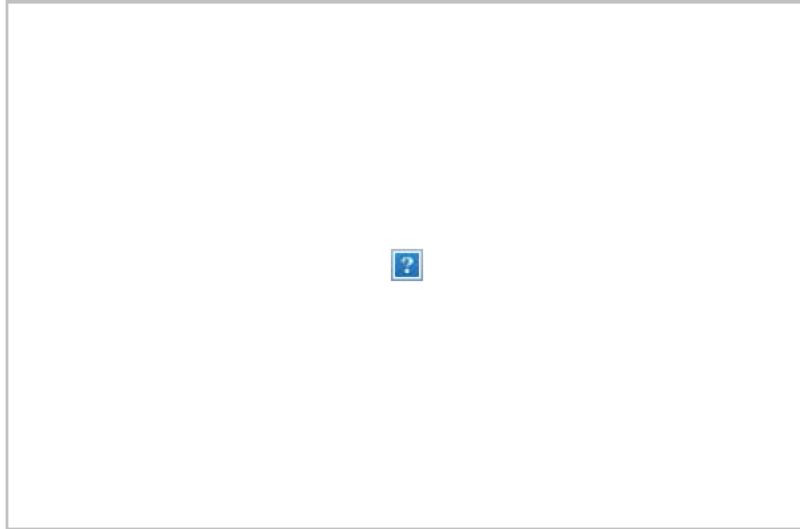
Board Member García --

For years Los Angeles families have faced a very complicated and disconnected set of applications to find and enroll in great public schools. Each school can have its own requirements, platform, and deadlines, so filling out the paperwork and keeping track of it all can be confusing and even overwhelming for families.

In fact, when GPSN held a series of public events last year to hear from parents about how public education can be improved, many attendees said the current enrollment process wasn't working and that communities needed a more family friendly charter application process.

That's why GPSN launched a single, common-sense application system – [ApplyLA](#) – last week. With ApplyLA, families fill out one application and apply to as many schools as they want in as little as five minutes. The site is off to a great start, with more than **900 applications** already received, and we anticipate that number will grow as more parents spread the word about the site.

For a quick overview on how ApplyLA works, click the video below.



In addition to allowing families to apply to multiple schools with a single application, ApplyLA also:

- Includes about 10% of LA's charter schools. The site currently has [31 schools](#), and we expect that number to grow.
- Is an especially important complement to L.A. Unified's Unified Enrollment system, which does not currently include independent charter schools.
- Allows families to track their applications in English, Spanish and Korean on a mobile-friendly platform. Families can log on at any time to see the status of their applications, apply to more schools, and accept offers in a single system.

GPSN spent the past year working with Parent Revolution and other partners to create ApplyLA, and participating schools include Aspire Public Schools, Bright Star Schools, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, CHIME, Citizens of the World, City Charter, Collegiate Charter High School, Ednovate Charter Schools, Equitas Academy Charter Schools, Green Dot Public Schools, KIPP LA Public Schools, and Para Los Niños.

Great Public Schools Now

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Lauren Tate](#); [Josh Kinoshita](#); [Patron, Lizette](#)
Subject: Introduction/Invitation
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:36:12 PM

Dear Monica,

I hope you're well; I wanted to make a quick intro to two members of my team, Lauren Tate, our Senior Director for Strategy and Growth, and Josh Kinoshita, our manager of common enrollment. Lauren and Josh are about to launch ApplyLA, a platform to ease enrollment access for LA charter schools, and we thought perhaps you and your team would like a private demo. We have been working with the charter community and the CSD to ensure our new system's features are within the authorized parameters for schools' enrollment policies, but still significantly ease the burdens of access for the most disadvantaged families. Launching this fall is just a pilot phase, but we are very excited about the many lessons we will learn in the coming year about how to make school choices more equitable, transparent and accessible to families, and more strategic for our partners. Eager to show you/talk more when convenient. Let me know if you want to set something up!

Best,

Myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Cc: [carrie@](#) [REDACTED] [Melvoin, Nick](#); [Reza, Sonia](#); [Patron, Lizette](#)
Subject: Re: Connection
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:27:41 AM

Thank you!

Hello! I am interested but am committed Oct 1 & 2.

Please let me know of next opportunity.

Monica

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 30, 2018, at 10:15 AM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

>

> Dear Carrie,

> Please meet LAUSD Board President Monica Garcia and VP Nick Melvoin! I forwarded your kind invitation for your initial cohort and they are both interested, yet incredibly pressured this fall as a potential teacher strike looms and the school year gets underway with a new Superintendent. They are both bold and courageous leaders leading our city to make the bold choices required to help our children reach their full potential. I leave you all to see if schedules allow for participation. I am excited for your work ahead connecting leaders like Monica and Nick with other courageous leaders across the nation to find common ground, support and new ideas.

>

> All the best,

>

> Myrna Castrejón

> Executive Director

> Great Public Schools Now

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [carrie@](#) [REDACTED]
Cc: [Garcia, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#); [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Connection
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:15:15 AM

Dear Carrie,

Please meet LAUSD Board President Monica Garcia and VP Nick Melvoin! I forwarded your kind invitation for your initial cohort and they are both interested, yet incredibly pressured this fall as a potential teacher strike looms and the school year gets underway with a new Superintendent. They are both bold and courageous leaders leading our city to make the bold choices required to help our children reach their full potential. I leave you all to see if schedules allow for participation. I am excited for your work ahead connecting leaders like Monica and Nick with other courageous leaders across the nation to find common ground, support and new ideas.

All the best,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Melvoin, Nick](#); [Angel, Sarah](#); [Isabel Acosta](#)
Subject: Re: School Board Partners is launching!
Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:00:49 AM

I'll connect you both to Carrie tomorrow directly!

M

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 11:57 PM, García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

I am interested as well. I cannot make the first mtg as my Pahara group is meeting that week.

Should we reach out to Carrie?

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting our movement towards 100% graduation.

On Aug 28, 2018, at 11:24 PM, Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET> wrote:

Hi! Thanks for this. I'm definitely interested. The timing may be tough with a strike and a Board step-back, but would love to learn more. Appreciate a connection!

N

Nick Melvoin

LAUSD Board of Education
District 4 | [Website](#)

On Aug 23, 2018, at 2:10 PM, Myrna Castrejon
<mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Friends,

I am forwarding a networking and support opportunity that one of our partners is launching to advance the work of quality and equity in urban districts. School Board Partners is a new, spin off organization of the former Education Cities network, of which GPSN is a member. As you can

see from Carrie's description, their aim is create a Board-level community of practice and make available resources and support for participating members on site and remote. This is at NO cost to participating Board members. If this is of interest to you, the initial cohort will launch October 1-3 in Denver. Let me know if I can connect you more directly. See the general description below, and the link to the live page that explains their work in more detail. I hope you find this helpful!

Myrna

I'm pleased to let you know that School Board Partners has secured our first large multi-year grant, allowing us to move forward with our plans to connect, inspire and support diverse school board members in selected cities across the country.

For year 1, our list of priority cities is: Atlanta, Baton Rouge, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, **Los Angeles**, Memphis, New Orleans, Oakland, San Antonio and Stockton.

In each of these cities, we plan to support 1-3 school board members by providing these three sets of supports:

1. **A national community** of diverse school board members who are working to lead bold change in their respective communities. The network will meet annually in person and communicate virtually throughout the year as needed. Members of the network will learn together and support each other, as well as benefit from the support and resources of the team at School Board Partners.
2. **A personal coach/mentor** to support each individual school board member as they develop as an elected official and leader of change in your city.
3. **Pro-bono consulting services** to help school board members research, plan and execute thoughtful change initiatives specific to your board and city.

Our first national convening of school board members will be held in Denver Oct 1st-3rd.

I'm writing today to see if you would like me to reach out to Los Angeles school board members directly, or if you would like to bring this opportunity to them from Great Public Schools Now.

I believe we would be targeting Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin for inclusion in the first cohort.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts or questions before reaching out to them.

Thank you for your support of this important work!
Carrie

LINK:
<https://spark.adobe.com/page/r05wRprPcef99/>

--

Carrie McPherson Douglass
Founder and CEO

School Board Partners

Connecting, inspiring and supporting school board members to be bold leaders for change in their community

Schedule a meeting with me [here](#)
Connect with me on [LinkedIn](#)

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Follow ups
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 3:28:25 PM

Dear Monica,

It was good to see you on your whirlwind first day of school tour! What an exciting moment for Amen and his students; Univision National filmed there this morning - and will broadcast a story on the school likely on Monday. We're incredibly pleased...

I want to make sure that in the craziness that is now, we don't lose the thread on the longer term opportunities for collaboration this year. Would love to set some time for us to sit down with our teams and map out the following:

- * Co-location retreat for your district
- * Any possibilities of good long term facilities use agreements as an incentive for innovation
- * Potential replication of high performing magnets in your area

Eager to get going on all of it!

Let me know when works for you.

Un abrazo,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Bringing More Great Schools to South LA
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 10:48:39 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Board Member Garcia --

The first day of school is approaching, and we're very excited to see students arriving at two new L.A. Unified schools: University Pathways Public Service Academy and University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy.

The schools are the result of years of collaboration with L.A. Unified to find creative ways to replicate high-quality campuses. Using a \$1.5 million GPSN grant, the campuses "recreate" two of South L.A.'s most popular and accomplished schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science. Both of those schools have long waiting lists and cannot accept every student who wants to attend. The new campuses should ensure that fewer families are disappointed.

[To learn more about our work and the students who will be attending the new campuses, check out this ABC 7 story.](#)



We're delighted that GPSN was able to work with L.A. Unified and believe these are the first of many collaborations to make sure that all students in our city get a great education.

[Click here to watch ABC 7's spotlight story and learn more.](#)

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: New Medical Magnet Opening in South L.A.!
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:41:04 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Board Member Garcia --

Parents want their children to have every chance to be successful. That's why the waiting list at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, the only L.A. Unified campus in South L.A. designed to help students become medical professionals, always has a long waiting list and why families are always disappointed when their children don't get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to "re-create" King/Drew at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The "re-created" school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.

MedicalNewsLetterGraphic.png

University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy will be led by Dorothy Cotton-Kindred, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and lives there because she believes that more South L.A. students should be doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

So do we. And we plan on continuing to collaborate with L.A. Unified to make sure that more students in South L.A. and throughout the city have a chance at a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Recreating Diego Rivera Public Service This Fall!
Date: Friday, July 13, 2018 12:07:47 PM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Board Member Garcia --

Great Public Schools Now's goal is educational equality for all children in our city. That means students in South L.A. should have the same chance at success as children in Westwood.

[For that to happen, South L.A. needs more great options like Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School, an L.A. Unified high school where 98% of students graduate.](#) Because of such success, families flock to apply to the school, and the waiting list is long every year, which means some families aren't able to get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to help "re-create" Diego Rivera at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The new school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.



University Pathways Public Service Academy will be led by Amen Rahh, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and spent his whole educational career working there because he cares passionately about the area and making sure children have every opportunity to succeed.

Making University Pathways Public Service Academy took almost two years of planning and collaboration, and now that the doors are about to open, we're thankful we had such strong partners throughout. When we visited the campuses recently, we saw how excited the students were about their new school, which made all the planning and hard work worth it.

We believe this will be the first of many collaborations between GPSN and L.A. Unified and, more importantly, the start of a new school that will give generations of South L.A. students a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Building a "One City, All Kids" Coalition
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:16:18 AM

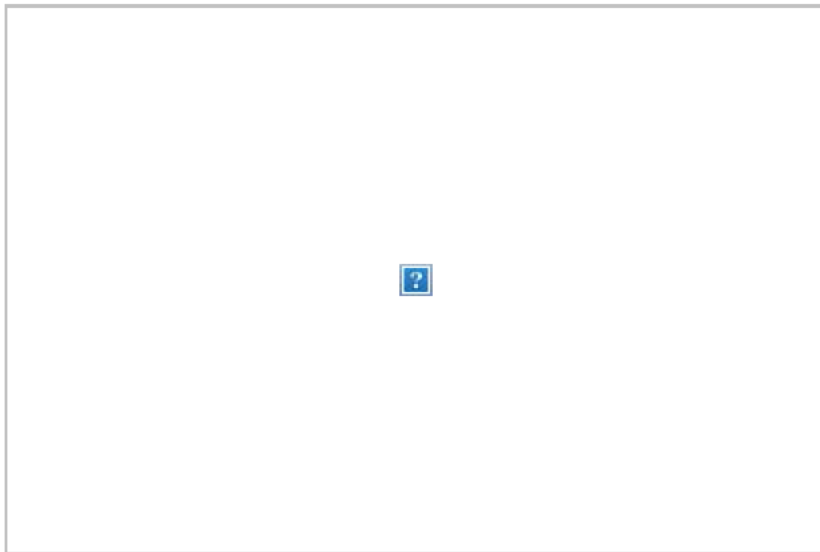
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Garcia --

Making sure that all students in Los Angeles have access to a high-quality education will take a unified community of educators, parents, and leaders who recognize that kids must come first. That's why GPSN was so excited to convene a historic meeting with new L.A. Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, school board members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin, and more than 250 parents from across the city late last month.

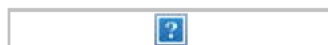
Parents were able to tell the new superintendent their hopes for more great teachers, better facilities, and equitable funding. And Beutner, shown below with some parents and educators who attended the meeting, made it clear that he heard their concerns and that improving L.A. Unified will take strong and open dialogue.



We know this is the beginning of a journey that will lead to a “One City, All Kids” plan that ensures greater educational equity across Los Angeles. The meeting marked the first time that so many education advocacy groups, representing all types of public schools, including charters, magnets and traditional campuses, met with Beutner to advocate for their common interests. GPSN believes more collaborations like this will lead to great things for students and families.

Thanks to groups including Parent Revolution, Speak UP, United Parents and Students, CCSA Families, Families in Schools, Alliance for a Better Community, Innercity Struggle, and Promesa Boyle Heights for all their hard work in making the meeting possible.

-- *Great Public Schools Now*



This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: GPSN helping teachers make LA home
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018 12:21:01 PM

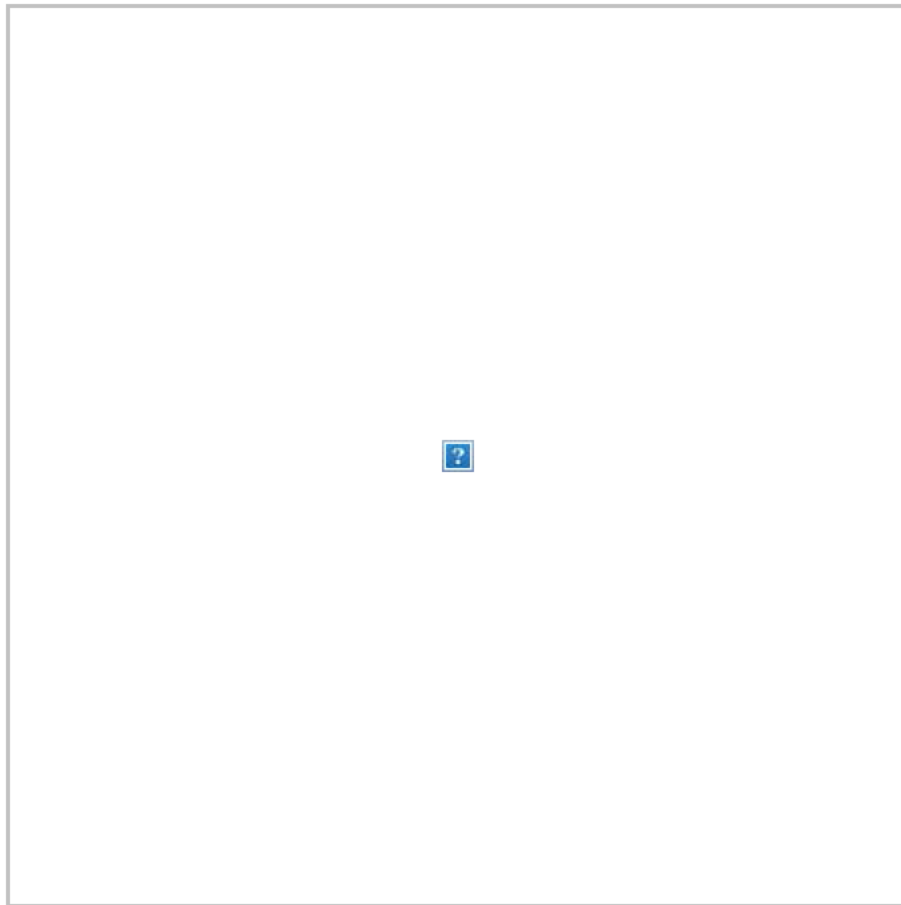
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Garcia --

So much of great education is making sure that teachers can do their best work in the classroom by giving them a fun but challenging work environment, freeing them from as much bureaucracy as possible, and sometimes even making sure they feel at home in a new city.

To make help some new KIPP LA teachers adjust to life in L.A., GPSN funded a program that gave new hires access to an apartment rental search engine as well as relocation support that helped KIPP LA attract the best and brightest teachers. **Click below to watch our video and learn more.**



The bonuses and apartment search helped bring Shahara Tiatia, a talented Latina math teacher who was living in Ireland, to her “dream city” of L.A. Shahara found an apartment within 30 minutes of work, a new favorite pupusa restaurant in her neighborhood, and a growing sense of becoming an Angeleno.

We know L.A. can sometimes seem intimidating from the outside, so we’re delighted to see KIPP LA do everything it can to help their new hires. GPSN is also looking forward to seeing young educators like Shahara put down roots in L.A. and grow as educators and leaders.

[To learn more about Shahara and how GPSN and KIPP LA are working to bring more great teachers to LA, check out the video here.](#)

-- *Great Public Schools Now*

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Beutner, Austin](#); [Garcia, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#); [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Thank you, and Photos
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018 11:24:04 AM

Superintendent, Board Members Garcia and Melvoin:

Thank you again for engaging our allied organizations on Wednesday - our parents left the session hopeful, energized and eager to do their part to ensure our LAUnified moves forward toward a vision of #onecityallkids under your leadership. I hope you found the morning inspiring as much as I did, and I know that together, we will accomplish great things for children.

Here's a [dropbox](#) containing photos from the event.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Adelante!

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Beutner, Austin](#); [Garcia, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#); [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Cc: [Plascencia Jr., Antonio](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#); [Patron, Lizette](#); [Rosa, Clayton](#); [Angel, Sarah](#); [Cynthia Kanagui](#); [Lauren Tate](#)
Subject: Final Agenda for tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 4:09:16 PM
Attachments: [Welcome Meeting 6.26.18 Final Agenda.docx](#)

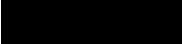
Dear Superintendent Beutner, Board Members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin,

We are looking forward to hosting tomorrow's event with 250 parents from our advocacy coalition, representing organizations active in traditional, magnet, pilot and independent charter schools across the city. As you can see from the attached agenda, there is a lot of substance to cover, and more than 15 parent speakers, so we will move quickly through an agenda highlighting the experiences of parents and students across challenging policy landscapes. We know you will be impressed with their leadership, their will to partner with you to help LAUSD meet its promises and challenges to help all students achieve at high levels, and the work they have endeavored to realize, together. We will welcome and introduce you at the top of the meeting, then parents will present the five policy areas of their work, and then we will invite you to offer reactions/comments to the families. Superintendent, we have allocated 10 minutes for your remarks, as families are eager to hear your thoughts on the issues they present, but most importantly, want to express their willingness to partner with you moving forward; Monica & Nick, families want to recognize your Board leadership in working to increase equity, transparency and access for students and would welcome brief remarks from you as well.

The event begins at 11 sharp, on the 30th floor penthouse space of 1150 S. Olive Avenue. Please pull up to valet and we will greet you at the security desk in front and direct you to the express elevators.

We look forward to an energetic and impactful meeting tomorrow!

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Charter Common Enrollment - Talking Points for AB-FINAL.docx
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 8:28:28 AM
Attachments: [Charter Common Enrollment - Talking Points for AB-FINAL.docx](#)

Here you go!! Mil gracias!!
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: June 21, 2018 at 2:06:42 PM PDT
To: austin.beutner@lausd.net
Cc: ltate@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
Subject: Charter Common Enrollment - Talking Points for AB-FINAL.docx

Dear Superintendent Beutner:

We are looking forward to meeting with you next week, when we will host you for a visit with our advocacy partners with 100 parents, advocating for greater access to high quality schools and the enabling conditions that will increase access and success for all children in our great city.

I want to bring another item to your attention that we are working on and for which we are respectfully requesting your advisement and assistance. Great Public Schools Now has been working for more than a year to eliminate barriers to equitable access and choice for needy families, and help level the playing field among sectors to give parents greater resources. After careful and deliberate collaboration with charter organizations across the city, we are ready to pilot a charter common application system, with the long term goal of creating the conditions needed for a truly universal enrollment system in a few years when sufficient trust and expertise across sectors can create better conditions for success.

One immediate impediment is that participating schools fear and anticipate that the charter division will opine that any participation in the pilot would require a Board-approved material revision to their entire petition, which they are not eager to 're-litigate', especially as material revisions requests often lead to re-opening many other terms of the charter. While charter operators are happy to seek amendments in the spring once the pilot reveals what specific changes are relevant and useful, we all agree that a temporary administrative permission from the charter schools division to engage without risking non-compliance would be not only more efficient but more effective in the long run while we seek to learn more from pilot results. The attached document describes the ask in more detail. We have engaged in conversations with Board President Monica Garcia and VP Nick Melvoin to map out the best solutions, and want to engage you as well in helping us carve the best path.

I am happy to chat with you to describe the issues in more detail, and very much look forward to meeting you in person soon, as well as hosting you next week, as I am confident we will have many opportunities to support your efforts and partner in meaningful ways in the coming weeks and months ahead.

I am energized and hopeful that you are leading our district, and wish you every success - and please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance or support in any way. My cell phone is [REDACTED]

Warm regards,

Myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: Hard Choices report - Advisory Task Force
Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 3:22:43 PM

thanks for sending!

m

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



On Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 3:15 PM, García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Thank you for supporting our movement towards 100% graduation.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Janelle Erickson" <jeerickson@lausd.net>
To: "García, Mónica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Gonez, Kelly" <kelly.gonez@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Melvoin, Nick" <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>, "Rodriguez, Ref" <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Austin Beutner" <austin@lausd.net>, "Romero, Michael" <michael.romero@lausd.net>, "Price, Scott" <scott.price@lausd.net>
Cc: "Laphonza Butler" <LaphonzaB@lausd.net>, "Elise Buik" <EBuik@lausd.net>, "Wendy Greuel" <wgreuel@lausd.net>, "Pedro Noguera" <pnoguera@lausd.net>, "Alexis Davis" <alexis@lausd.net>, "Doug" <doug@lausd.net>, "Miguel A Santana" <miguelasantana2015@lausd.net>, "Chris Silbermann" <cs@lausd.net>, "Hannah Linkenhoker" <HLLinkenhoker@lausd.net>, "Renata Simril" <renata@lausd.net>, "Michael E. Spagna Ph.D." <mspagna@lausd.net>, "Helen Torres" <htorres@lausd.net>, "Jake Winebaum" <jake@lausd.net>, "Janelle Erickson" <jeerickson@lausd.net>

Subject: Hard Choices report - Advisory Task Force

Dear Board Members and Superintendent,

On behalf of the LA Unified Advisory Task Force, we would like to present our report, Hard Choices, that examines a select set of issues involving student learning, workforce, and equity in school funding, and connects them to LA Unified's budget.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity today to speak to the full Board of Education. We would like to reiterate our offer to continue this discussion with you and District stakeholders.

Attached you find the full reports from both the Task Force and Education Resource Strategies.

Again, we thank you for your partnership and we look forward to seizing this time to build the public school district the communities of Los Angeles deserve.

Sincerely,

The LAUSD Advisory Task Force

From: [Mónica Castañón](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Mónica García](#), [What's the deal with the school board?](#)
Subject: Re: Screening of "Backpack Full of Cash" followed by a moderated panel discussion about privatization of public schools in LA
Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 9:40:01 PM

Thanks for sharing. I'm actually surprised it took this long for the film to be brought here. I have seen it heavily promoted on the East Coast for almost a year... ugh. And In The Public Interest is hardly the neutral third party it pretends to be - it's an NEA front. very interesting research done by national foundations connecting "the left" money with the campaigns to discredit reform - tied to Kids Not Profits. That's why we have been so heavily invested in media work....

The semi good news is that they have not figured out how to deliver their messages in Spanish. We own that lane pretty significantly. Telemundo especially, and our social media channels. We forge on.

M

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 16, 2018, at 7:52 PM, García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

>

> FYI

>

>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Anna Bakalis

>> Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:40 PM

>> To: Anna Bakalis <abakalis@utla.net>

>> Subject: Screening of "Backpack Full of Cash" followed by a moderated panel discussion about privatization of public schools in LA

>> Importance: High

>>

>> ** MEDIA ADVISORY **

>> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

>> May 15, 2018

>>

>> Media Contact:

>> Anna Bakalis, UTCLA Communications Director

>>

>> Screening of "Backpack Full of Cash" followed by a moderated panel discussion about privatization of public schools in LA

>>

>> WHAT: A screening of 'Backpack Full of Cash,' a documentary narrated by Matt Damon, takes an urgently-needed look at how charter schools, vouchers and the privatization movement are threatening the nation's public schools. In the wake of the 2016 presidential elections and the appointment of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, as well as the installation of a pro-charter majority of the LAUSD School Board, BACKPACK is more timely than ever. Filmed in Philadelphia, New Orleans, Nashville and other cities, BACKPACK takes viewers through the tumultuous 2013-14 school year, exposing the world of corporate-driven education "reform" where public education -- starved of resources -- hangs in the balance.

>>

>> WHO: Presented by UTCLA's Task Force Against Prop 39, the event will include a panel moderated by John Rogers, Director of UCLA's Institute for Democracy, Education and Access. Panelists include Donald Cohen, the executive director of In the Public Interest, a national policy center promoting the common good; Delmar Thomas, a parent at Baldwin Hills Elementary School; Yolanda Tamayo, a teacher at Lorena Street Elementary School and a student from Southeast High School who participated in recent student actions against colocation by a charter school.

>>

>> WHEN: Wednesday, May 16, 2018

>> 4:00 pm -- "Social/Networking Hour"

>> 5:00 pm -- Welcome/Film Screening

>> 7:00 pm -- Panel Discussion

>>

>> WHERE: RFK Community School / Coconut Grove Theatre / 701 S. Catalina Street, Los Angeles, CA 90005

>>

>> For more info: <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.utla.net%2Fevents%2Fscreening-backpack-full-cash&data=02%7C01%7Cshannon.haber%40lausd.net%7C3b213c3cc8fc49ffc0be08d5bade849%7C042a40a1b1284ac48648016ffa121487%7C1%7C0%7C63662038838479449&sd=BrYqU4w0EgIX7bJf%2B1B9cDvFinNRcmKjy04yRm6K0Nk%3D&reserved=0>

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>>

Wonderful! Thank you for all you do

> On Feb 28 2018 at 11:27 PM, García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote

> Thank you for supporting our movement towards 100% graduation.

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Garcia, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: News from Great Public Schools Now
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:51:12 PM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Hello:

We hope the start of your school year has gone great. Ours has been fantastic. Like all of you, we had a busy summer, and we're excited about some of our big projects that are coming up this fall. Here's what we've been up to:

Last Town Hall of 2017

We held our fifth and final 2017 town hall in the Pico-Union neighborhood this August, which capped off nearly a year of GPSN events. We held town halls in the northeast San Fernando Valley, South L.A., East L.A., Southeast L.A. and Pico-Union, speaking with thousands of people about Great Public Schools Now's work and mission. We believe that community members are an invaluable resource for educators. Families know what's working for them and what their neighborhoods need from schools, and GPSN is excited to hold more public events in the near future. Stay tuned for more details.

Poll

To make sure that we are getting an accurate understanding of what students need, GPSN conducted a poll this summer with Tulchin Research to gauge public opinion on education. You can see read the press release [here](#), but we found that the community supports doing more of what works. Voters, and parents in particular, want to see more high-quality public schools of all kinds, including charter and L.A. Unified schools. The public also overwhelmingly feels that educational politics have become too overheated, something GPSN also agrees with. It's time to put students first and improve education across Los Angeles.

Univision Fair

Even though we don't have any more town halls planned, GPSN will be doing at least one more public event: the Univision Education Fair on Sept. 23 at Cal State Northridge. We'll

have a booth and will be doing two presentations that day. One will be with Parent Revolution called “Education 101,” where we will explain educational options at both traditional district schools and charters. The other will feature members of Students For Education Reform, who will explain how to best choose a college, major and even career.

We hope to see you there!

Great Public Schools Now

<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

Great Public Schools Now · United States

This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

You can also keep up with Great Public Schools Now on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: fyi: follow up on townhall at Berendo plus media outreach
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:22:18 PM

excellent!! I so totally didn't want to be an ass to a good friend, but i was really torn. thank you for understanding. win win!

On Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 4:21 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member)

<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Happy First day of school!!

Yes. Thanks for creative problem solving!

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation! Kids First!

On Aug 17, 2017, at 4:15 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Hi Monica! Sorry for the delayed response... yesterday was [REDACTED] first day of school and I was mostly out....

Cynthia let me know about the request for contact information and here's the real deal on why the hesitation... As you may know, Cynthia formed a parent team for the East and Pico Union Town Halls to canvass neighborhoods and sign folks up for Town Hall and communications/advocacy support from us. The team reported heavy resistance in the community, as people were incredibly fearful of giving their names and contact information because of immigration fears. We promised in writing and verbally to keep their information confidential and not share with third parties. I know that we are perfectly aligned in wanting the same good things for parents and that their info would be safe with them, but i am still uncomfortable breaking our word, especially under the circumstances it was given.... WHAT IF.... we sent an email/text to the families that signed up and informed them that as a follow up to the town hall, we want them to stay in active contact with advocates who can help, and we would like to share their information with trusted allies, and if they respond they object by a certain day (say five days hence) we will not share their individual contact? That way we make it an 'opt out' rather opt in, but I assuage my conscience that they will have given their implicit permission? If anyone objects, I'll remove them from the list and then pass it on? Does that work? in addition, we would specifically have folks disclose that we will share future info or 'opt in' at registration on Saturday?

myrna

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Hello ,

Can you review & see if there is some level of sharing for email

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MG

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation! Kids First!

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Date: August 15, 2017 at 10:47:54 AM PDT
To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)"
<monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Patron, Lizette"
<lizette.patron@lausd.net>
Subject: **fyi: follow up on townhall at Berendo plus media outreach**

would like assistance on communicating with Myrna on better ways to strengthen our collaborate approach.

From: Cynthia Kanagui <ckanagui@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 10:42:56 AM
To: Armenta, Isidro
Subject: RE: follow up on townhall at Berendo plus media outreach

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Thank you for your time,

Cynthia

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Sent: Monday, August 14, 2017 1:23 PM
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Cynthia,

Thank you for agenda – please remember to add accent marks on the board member's name: Mónica García. Also, what is the GPSN Video Stream?

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[REDACTED]

In appreciation of your service,

Isidro Armenta

Director of Communications

Office of Board Member Mónica García, District 2

Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education

Office: [REDACTED] Fax: [213.241.8459](tel:213.241.8459)

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From: Cynthia Kanagui [<mailto:ckanagui@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>]

Sent: Monday, August 14, 2017 12:31 PM

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Subject: RE: follow up on townhall at Berendo

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Thanks for your flexibility, I'll try to get you information ASAP!

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Importance: High

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Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org

From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: fyi: follow up on townhall at Berendo plus media outreach
Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:21:07 PM

Happy First day of school!!

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mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



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Date: Thursday, August 17, 2017 4:15:27 PM

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Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]

From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Cc: [Jason Song](#); [Armenta, Isidro](#); [Reza, Sonia](#); [Patron, Lizette](#)
Subject: Re: for the monica ask re: Education Fair
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 2:27:46 PM

Hello,

Yes if we can be flexible w schedule ... sonia can help explore - I think morning is best .

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation! Kids First!

On Aug 8, 2017, at 5:00 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Monica,

GPSN will be hosting a booth and sponsoring the Univision Education Fair slated for September 23. As part of the sponsorship package, they allow each partner a workshop slot and space to address attendees - this is the biggest education fair in the area, focusing on Latino parents and with an attendance in the tens of thousands. We were batting around ideas for good exposure/education topics for families that are aligned with our overall focus on quality and options with equity mission. We were wondering if you might be interested in partnering up again with Yolie to talk about how the LAUSD can lead in Los Angeles for the future our kids deserve. The fair is from 10-3, and there is total flexibility on the timing of the workshop/talk to accommodate your schedule, if you are inclined to participate. Let me know if you're interested and we can work out more details and a topic focus/format you're most comfortable with.

Hope you managed a little bit of time off before school resumes!

Warmly,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Cc: [Jason Song](#); [Armenta, Isidro](#); [Reza, Sonia](#); [Patron, Lizette](#)
Subject: Re: for the monica ask re: Education Fair
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 2:27:44 PM

Hello,

Yes if we can be flexible w schedule ... sonia can help explore - I think morning is best .

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation! Kids First!

On Aug 8, 2017, at 5:00 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Monica,

GPSN will be hosting a booth and sponsoring the Univision Education Fair slated for September 23. As part of the sponsorship package, they allow each partner a workshop slot and space to address attendees - this is the biggest education fair in the area, focusing on Latino parents and with an attendance in the tens of thousands. We were batting around ideas for good exposure/education topics for families that are aligned with our overall focus on quality and options with equity mission. We were wondering if you might be interested in partnering up again with Yolie to talk about how the LAUSD can lead in Los Angeles for the future our kids deserve. The fair is from 10-3, and there is total flexibility on the timing of the workshop/talk to accommodate your schedule, if you are inclined to participate. Let me know if you're interested and we can work out more details and a topic focus/format you're most comfortable with.

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mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Jason Song](#)
Subject: Fwd: for the monica ask re: Education Fair
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 5:00:49 PM

Dear Monica,

GPSN will be hosting a booth and sponsoring the Univision Education Fair slated for September 23. As part of the sponsorship package, they allow each partner a workshop slot and space to address attendees - this is the biggest education fair in the area, focusing on Latino parents and with an attendance in the tens of thousands. We were batting around ideas for good exposure/education topics for families that are aligned with our overall focus on quality and options with equity mission. We were wondering if you might be interested in partnering up again with Yolie to talk about how the LAUSD can lead in Los Angeles for the future our kids deserve. The fair is from 10-3, and there is total flexibility on the timing of the workshop/talk to accommodate your schedule, if you are inclined to participate. Let me know if you're interested and we can work out more details and a topic focus/format you're most comfortable with.

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Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [monicagarcia](#)
Bcc: [luis](#); [maria](#); [Lester Garcia](#); [Elmer Roldan](#); [Amy Cooper](#); [Isidro Armenta](#); [Campos, Edgar](#); [Palacios, Klarissa](#); [Patron, Lizette](#); [Reza, Sonia](#); [Panduro Soltero, Jessica](#); [Gomez, Blanca.E.](#); [Veronica Melvin](#); [Oscar E. Cruz](#); [Nadia E. Diaz Funn](#); [Alma Vivian Marquez](#); [Henry Perez](#); [Joan Sullivan](#); [Rev. K. W. Tulloss](#); [Maria Casillas](#); [mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org](#); [Gary Borden](#); [Ben Paul](#); [Dixon Slingerland](#); [Ama Nyamekye](#); [Roberto Martinez](#); [Ana F. Ponce](#); [ramoncortines](#); [John E. Deasy](#); [michelleking](#); [Ana Maria Garcia](#); [pgarcia](#); [iliaesthe](#); [Lulu Hernandez](#); [Dr. Corinne Martinez](#); [Alfonso](#); [angela](#); [re](#); [Marqueece Harris-Dawson](#); [Nury Martinez](#)
Subject: Happy New Year & many thanks!
Date: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 11:34:30 PM

Hello precious people,

Here we are once again celebrating our successful effort to retain our role as elected leaders of BD2.

Tomorrow the Board will begin a new chapter of leading in LA.

I want to share the deep gratitude I have for your strong support and continuous service over the years. We have made a difference together. We have challenged this district together. We have struggled & led together.

Our victories are many and the progress we have seen in our schools & communities is significant. More relationship, more opportunities, more partners and yes, more graduation.

We look forward with optimism because we know who we are and what we want. Our shared history is proof positive our communities are better served when we are engaged and demanding on behalf of our youth & families.

Friends, I know you all have sacrificed & made contributions that go un-noticed. Please know I am ever grateful for your persistence, inspiration and partnership.

I stand strong because I know you. I support you because you model courage & lift the voices of those we serve. Our communities have voice & possibilities because we work together.

I am super proud of the work we have done together. I am super honored to be in this fight with you.

This is the fourth term for me & our collective leadership. It is my profound privilege to represent you & your families on the Board of Education.

I will continue to seek your guidance & ask for your support along this path. We must accelerate the pace of progress & enroll more people in the movement towards 100% graduation.

We ask the universe and all that is good to walk this journey towards justice with us so that love & light live in our schools & communities.

Mil gracias y Adelante!

Mónica

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation!

From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: Annual Meeting Order of Business
Date: Monday, July 3, 2017 11:43:04 AM

1) waiver of BR72 allows us to act same meeting instead of making it lay over

2) not sure it has happened- it has been discussed.

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation!

On Jun 30, 2017, at 7:59 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Love it!!!! Quick questions:

- what is Board rule 72 being waived?
- have the philanthropies related to teacher work been identified/approached? This is a great avenue for partnership(s) large and small - an opportunity for "glue" among many players. I may have some role there (beyond gpsn +)
- would love to strategize and what internal capacities are needed to execute on this

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 30, 2017, at 6:51 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Crain, Jefferson" <jefferson.crain@lausd.net>
Date: June 30, 2017 at 6:34:12 PM PDT
To: "Crain, Jefferson" <jefferson.crain@lausd.net>, Kelly Gonez <[REDACTED]>, Nick Melvoin <[REDACTED]>, District 1 <District1@lausd.net>, District 2 <District2@lausd.net>, District 3 <District3@lausd.net>, District 4 <District4@lausd.net>, District 5 <District5@lausd.net>, District 6 <District6@lausd.net>, District 7 <District7@lausd.net>
Cc: Secretariat <Secretariat@lausd.net>, "King, Michelle Superintendent" <michelle.king@lausd.net>, "Holmquist, David (OGC)"

<david.holmquist@lausd.net>, "Elam, Nicole"

<nicole.elam@lausd.net>, "Pena, Alma"

<alma.sanchez@lausd.net>

Subject: Annual Meeting Order of Business

Attached is the Annual Meeting Order of Business .

Please note that Dr. Rodriguez sent me a resolution this afternoon to include for action with a waiver of Board Rule 72.

Jeff

<07-06-17AnnualBdOB.pdf>

From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: Annual Meeting Order of Business
Date: Monday, July 3, 2017 11:43:03 AM

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Releases New Poll
Date: Monday, July 3, 2017 11:36:35 AM

WOW! What an honor!

m

On Mon, Jul 3, 2017 at 11:35 AM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member)

<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Wow- this is the first group email to new board. A little piece in history.

Thx

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation!

On Jul 3, 2017, at 11:22 AM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Los Angeles Unified Board Members and Superintendent King,

Attached please find a news release and research memo from Great Public Schools Now, announcing the results of a recent poll of LA voters regarding Angelenos' sentiments on a wide range of issues impacting our public schools. The poll was conducted in the past ten days by Tulchin Research, a highly regarded research firm which conducted polling for U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' Presidential campaign, and reached 800 registered voters in the Los Angeles Unified School District, using live professional interviewers and calling both landlines and cell phones in English and Spanish. We have released results to the press, on embargo, until July 5.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



<7.03.17 Poll Release-FINALv3.pdf>

<Tulchin Research Memo - LAUSD Voter Survey 7-1-17 finalV3.pdf>

--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Releases New Poll
Date: Monday, July 3, 2017 11:35:21 AM

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To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
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<Tulchin Research Memo - LAUSD Voter Survey 7-1-17 finalV3.pdf>

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: Annual Meeting Order of Business
Date: Friday, June 30, 2017 7:59:02 PM

Love it!!!! Quick questions:

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To: "Crain, Jefferson" <jefferson.crain@lausd.net>, Kelly Gonez
[REDACTED], Nick Melvoin
[REDACTED], District 1 <District1@lausd.net>, District
2 <District2@lausd.net>, District 3 <District3@lausd.net>, District 4
<District4@lausd.net>, District 5 <District5@lausd.net>, District 6
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Cc: Secretariat <Secretariat@lausd.net>, "King, Michelle
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(OGC)" <david.holmquist@lausd.net>, "Elam, Nicole"
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Subject: Annual Meeting Order of Business

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Jeff

<07-06-17AnnualBdOB.pdf>

From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: Stakeholder Letter of Support for T1 reso
Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 11:36:28 PM

Super excited about the next part of the journey.
Gracias a ti.

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation!

On Jun 12, 2017, at 11:30 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Thanks for sending this; would have loved to sign on. Thanks for a great dinner!
We need to continue to "conspire", in the original Latin sense of the word: to breathe together, for a better LA!

M

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 12, 2017, at 11:12 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

FYI

Thank you for joining the movement towards 100% graduation!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Campos, Edgar" <edgar.campos@lausd.net>
Date: June 12, 2017 at 5:13:26 PM PDT
To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, District 1
<District1@lausd.net>, District 3
<District3@lausd.net>, District 4
<District4@lausd.net>, District 5
<District5@lausd.net>, District 6
<District6@lausd.net>, District 7
<District7@lausd.net>, "King, Michelle Superintendent" <michelle.king@lausd.net>, District 2
<District2@lausd.net>
Cc: "Elam, Nicole" <nicole.elam@lausd.net>, "Gipson, Frances" <frances.gipson@lausd.net>, "Norris, Kathy" <kathy.norris@lausd.net>, "Ryback, Karen" <karen.ryback@lausd.net>, "Pena, Alma" <alma.sanchez@lausd.net>, "Crain, Jefferson" <jefferson.crain@lausd.net>, "Newman, Robert"

<robert.newman@lausd.net>, "Martinez, Roberto A.
(LD Supt)" <roberto.a.martinez@lausd.net>, "Huerta,
Jose" <jose.huerta@lausd.net>, "Holmquist, David
(OGC)" <david.holmquist@lausd.net>, "Salcido, Pedro"
<pedro.salcido@lausd.net>, "Melendez, Thelma"
<thelma.melendez@lausd.net>, "Walsh, John"
<john.walsh@lausd.net>, "Simpson, Cheryl"
<cheryl.simpson@lausd.net>, "Haber, Shannon"
<shannon.haber@lausd.net>

Subject: Stakeholder Letter of Support for T1 reso

Hello Leaders,

**Wanted to call your attention to the
attached Version 2 letter we have
received from 27 stakeholder partners
representing students and families across
LAUSD in support of the Title 1 resolution
for action on June 13th.**

--

Edgar Campos

Chief Strategy Officer

Office of Board Member Mónica García

Board of Education, District 2

Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles CA

90017

P: [REDACTED]

<Final Community Letter to Support Equitable Funding June17.pdf>

From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: Stakeholder Letter of Support for T1 reso
Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 11:36:26 PM

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<pedro.salcido@lausd.net>, "Melendez, Thelma"
<thelma.melendez@lausd.net>, "Walsh, John"
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Board of Education, District 2

Los Angeles Unified School District

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90017

P: [REDACTED]

<Final Community Letter to Support Equitable Funding June17.pdf>

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: Stakeholder Letter of Support for T1 reso
Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 11:30:24 PM

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Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles CA 90017

P: [REDACTED]

<Final Community Letter to Support Equitable Funding June17.pdf>

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: June 2017 Newsletter
Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 3:50:42 PM



June 5, 2017

Dear parents and community members,

Education is a team effort. And if Great Public Schools Now is going to reach our goal of making sure that every student in Los Angeles has a chance at a great education, we'll need a lot of partners. That's why we've worked with organizations across the educational landscape, from charters to teacher training programs, after-school organizations and parents.

One of our key partners is L.A. Unified, the nation's second-largest school district, which was why we were so excited to announce a \$1.5-million grant to L.A. Unified's Local District South earlier this spring. The money will go towards replicating education practices at two of the local district's best-performing schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science.

L.A. Unified administrators will spend the first year of the grant identifying the right replication sites and the best person to lead the team at the new campus. The campuses will open in the fall of 2018 and will add about 1,000 students over three years.

We've been working on the school replication grants with L.A. Unified administrators for months and feel the grants represent a great step forward in our relationship and for the future of Los Angeles. District officials will keep us informed about how the grants develop, and we look forward to finding new ways to work with them.

This [news release](#) contains more information about the grant program.

¡Escuelas Públicas de Calidad Ya!

To reach our goals, GPSN also needs to reach as wide an audience as possible. So we've started a Spanish-language [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages that we believe will help us reach more people. Give us a like or a follow and keep up with all GPSN news in real time and learn about the latest happenings in the world of education.

Celebrating Our Work With Teach For America, Los Angeles

The GPSN team attended the Teach For America, Los Angeles benefit dinner last month, where GPSN received the Regional Changemaker award. We're honored by the recognition and inspired by the work TFA does. We gave them \$2 million last spring, and they turned that into 130 new corps members by the fall who are working throughout the city to inspire students. Check out the videos we produced highlighting the work of two first-year teachers, [Joshua Rushing](#) at Manual Arts High School, and [Jose Bahena](#) at 42nd Street Elementary.

Town Hall News

Our East Los Angeles Town Hall earlier this month was our best yet, with nearly 300 people attending. There was a lively discussion led by our executive director, Myrna Castrejón, and attendees also were able to speak with L.A. Unified board member Mónica García to share their hopes and concerns about education in their neighborhood. We are proud to be working with the many community members who said that they need more great schools. For a quick summary of the event, check out this Univision news [video](#).

As always, thanks for your support. Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

You can also keep up with Great Public Schools Now on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
Subject: Invitation
Date: Friday, April 28, 2017 12:28:26 PM

Hola Monica!

I'm sure you're bracing for the end of year rush, so I hope I'm still on time to snag a little bit of your time. As you know, Great Public Schools Now is cycling through the five zones of our impact geographies doing Town Halls, where we are listening to parents' concerns about the need for high quality schools in their communities, regardless of governance structure. It's an opportunity for us to explain the nature of our work and build a bridge across the divides of charter vs. traditional schools. Last weekend we had our most successful Town Hall of the three, where more than 200 families took leadership in shaping the agenda and engaging Ref Rodriguez in a candid and productive conversation about common areas of concern. This is exactly the kind of Town Hall we'd love to have in your district! We had paused plans during the election to ensure all attention was focused where it should, but would like to have a chance to revisit East Los Angeles, tentatively on June 3, from 9:30 - 11:30, potentially at ELACC. Please let me know if that is an event you could support and be present for - we're eager to keep the conversation going for our 'third way', where both sectors can thrive and bring greater quality options to kids who most need them!

Many thanks, and have a great weekend, comadre!

myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: March Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:29:49 PM



GPSNgreenlogo.png



March 1, 2017

Hello Board Member Garcia --

Great teachers are at the heart of every outstanding public school. They use different methods and have different personalities, but they all know how to inspire their students to meet new challenges. When one great teacher leaves the classroom early because they didn't get the proper support, it's a tragedy for the school and the community.

That's why Great Public Schools Now awarded nearly \$900,000 to six educational organizations and schools to fund programs that will provide their best teachers more training, improve work-life balance, and offer financial incentives for additional professional development.

The grants should help about 150 amazing educators stay in their classrooms for as long as they want to. That means thousands of children will continue to get great educations and future generations of teachers will have mentors to help them become the best educators they can be.

With the hope of replicating the best parts of each project throughout the city, the GPSN team will closely monitor the progress of each program because all students deserve a great teacher.

Check out the news release and other information about the grants at our [website](#).

New look!

When you see the teacher retention news release, you'll notice that we have refreshed the site. We think it's more user-friendly and highlights the work we've done with partners across Los Angeles, especially since each project has its own space under the "Our Work" tab. We made sure to leave plenty of room for future work, and we think the website will grow along with GPSN.

Next Town Hall!

We'll be holding out next Town Hall on April 22nd at the SteelWorkers OldTimers Foundation at 3355 E. Gage Ave. in Huntington Park. We'll have more details soon and hope to see you there!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

You can also keep up with Great Public Schools Now on [Twitter](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: November 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:57:03 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Nov. 30, 2016

Hello Board Member Garcia --

The main goal of Great Public Schools Now has always been to give the nearly 140,000 students enrolled in low-performing Los Angeles-area public schools a chance at a great education. To achieve this ambitious objective, GPSN has been developing partnerships across the educational landscape, including with L.A. Unified.

We're proud to say that our collaboration with the nation's second largest school district is producing results. After months of working with L.A. Unified officials, GPSN awarded a grant to plan replication of successful educational practices at a pair of South L.A. schools: Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service and King-Drew Senior High Medicine & Science Magnet.

Diego Rivera and King-Drew are two of South L.A.'s best performing campuses, and we're confident they will submit innovative grant proposals to continue their great work.

The grants are part of GPSN's commitment to spend up to \$3.75 million to replicate high-quality L.A. Unified schools and we hope that even more campuses will apply for the final grants later this year. Winners will be announced by April, so stay tuned for more news.

South L.A. Town Hall!

We're holding our second town hall on December 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Watts Labor Community Action center. Our first, in the Northeast San Fernando Valley in October, attracted more than 130 people who gave us valuable feedback on what they want to see from their education system.

In addition to roundtable discussions and a Q&A, we're also holding a resource fair as well as providing complimentary day care and lunch.

Help us spread the word by sharing the [Facebook](#) event page or signing up to attend [here](#).

And now we're seven...

Operations Manager **Jardine Monteil** has joined the GPSN team. Jardine has extensive experience working with nonprofit organizations and was most recently the controller for the Foothill Unity Center. With Jardine's addition, Great Public Schools Now is fully staffed with seven employees, and we look forward to producing more great work in the coming year.

Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today
Date: Monday, November 7, 2016 4:13:13 PM

Sounds good. It's Veterans' Day so I can sneak out and let the kid sleep in :) Where do you want to meet?

m

On Mon, Nov 7, 2016 at 4:05 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member)

<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Friday breakfast? 8 am?

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Date: 11/7/16 3:32 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>

Subject: Re: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today

thanks! anytime! You want to meet sometime this week?

Myrna

On Mon, Nov 7, 2016 at 2:46 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member)

<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Well done.

We need to catch up soon.

Be well.

From: "mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org" <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Date: Friday, November 4, 2016 at 2:22 PM

To: MICHELLE KING <michelle.king@lausd.net>, STEVEN ZIMMER <szimmer@lausd.net>, GEORGE MCKENNA <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, RICHARD VLADOVIC <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>,

RODRIGUEZ REFUGIO <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net>, MONICA RATLIFF
<monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, SCOTT SCHMERELSON <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>
Cc: SHANNON HABER <shannon.haber@lausd.net>, Jason Song
<jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Subject: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today

Dear Superintendent King and Board of Education members:

Attached is Great Public Schools Now's response to the United Teachers Los Angeles press release stating some educators' opposition to our high-performing schools replication grant. As you know, GPSN and district educators worked together to design a grant program that will greatly benefit the city, and we are disappointed that adults are putting politics ahead of students' best interests.

We all know that education is vital but difficult work, and we at GPSN remain confident that these challenges can best be solved through open dialogue and collaboration. We look forward to working with L.A. Unified on the high-performing schools replication grant and other projects in the future.

My best regards,

Myrna Castrejon

Executive Director

Great Public Schools Now

mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today
Date: Monday, November 7, 2016 3:32:48 PM

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Myrna

On Mon, Nov 7, 2016 at 2:46 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member)
<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Well done.

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Date: Friday, November 4, 2016 at 2:22 PM
To: MICHELLE KING <michelle.king@lausd.net>, STEVEN ZIMMER <szimmer@lausd.net>, GEORGE MCKENNA <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, RICHARD VLADOVIC <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, RODRIGUEZ REFUGIO <ref.rodriquez@lausd.net>, MONICA RATLIFF <monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, SCOTT SCHMERELSON <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>
Cc: SHANNON HABER <shannon.haber@lausd.net>, Jason Song <jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Subject: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today

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My best regards,

Myrna Castrejon

Executive Director

Great Public Schools Now

mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



--

Myrna Castrejon

Executive Director

Great Public Schools Now

mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today
Date: Monday, November 7, 2016 2:46:58 PM

Well done.

We need to catch up soon.

Be well.

From: "mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org" <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: Friday, November 4, 2016 at 2:22 PM
To: MICHELLE KING <michelle.king@lausd.net>, STEVEN ZIMMER <zimmer@lausd.net>, GEORGE MCKENNA <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, RICHARD VLADOVIC <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, RODRIGUEZ REFUGIO <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net>, MONICA RATLIFF <monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, SCOTT SCHMERELSON <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>
Cc: SHANNON HABER <shannon.haber@lausd.net>, Jason Song <jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Subject: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today

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My best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#)
Cc: [Del Cueto, Linda](#); [Downing, Christopher](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Elam, Nicole](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Planning Grant Applications
Date: Monday, October 31, 2016 5:38:53 PM

Dear Superintendent King:

I am confirming receipt of the proposals and look forward to reviewing them. Further, we look forward to continuing our preparations for the full RFP and a successful funding cycle for 2017.

We thank you for your engagement in this effort.

Sincerely,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 31, 2016, at 4:31 PM, King, Michelle Superintendent <michelle.king@lausd.net> wrote:

Good Afternoon Ms. Castrejon,
Please find attached 3 proposals for planning grant consideration with relevant resumes. Each plan has the school name, primary contact information, GPSN Focus Region and current school address included. Please connect with the appropriate Local District Superintendent for schools if further information is required.

Thank you,

Michelle King, Superintendent
Office of the Superintendent

<image001.png>	213-241-7000	<image004.png>	michelle.king@lausd.net	<image007.png>
<image002.png>	213-241-8442	<image005.png>	www.lausd.net	
<image003.png>	333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor			

[<image009.jpg>](#) [<image011.jpg>](#) [<image013.png>](#) [<image015.jpg>](#)

IMPORTANT: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential. They are intended for the named recipient(s) only. If you have received this email by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and do not disclose the contents to anyone or make copies thereof.

<image016.png> Please consider your environmental responsibility. Before printing this e-mail message, ask yourself whether you really need a hard copy.

<San Fernando GPS_FINAL PROPOSAL_10-28-2016.pdf>

[REDACTED].pdf>

[REDACTED].pdf>

[REDACTED].pdf>

<GPSN Proposal LD South_10 28 16.docx>

[REDACTED]>

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: October 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:08:24 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Oct. 19, 2016

Hello Board Member Garcia --

Since our launch in June 2016, Great Public Schools Now has been hard at work sharpening our strategic areas of focus supporting great schools and educational programs across Los Angeles. One of our key goals is to catalyze a conversation among Angelenos about how best to increase high quality options for all kids, particularly for children in the highest areas of need across our great city. We thank you for joining our outreach list and for your support of our mission and look forward to being in regular contact with you. We will be sending monthly updates in this community newsletter to stay connected with you about what we see as bright spots and challenges to improve education and how we continue to shape our work.

Inaugural Collaboration with L.A. Unified

After working with Los Angeles Unified School District officials for several months, we were thrilled to announce our agreement to fund up to \$3.75 million to expand up to five high-performing schools. The campuses will be chosen by our board along with a panel of experts both inside and outside the district, and final winners will be announced around April next year.

We think these grants can make a huge difference in the nation's second biggest school district by providing more opportunities for students to go to high-performing schools. And we're excited to be working with L.A. Unified for the first of what we believe will be many partnerships.

For full grant details, check out the [press release](#) and [Request for Proposal](#) on our website. But here are some highlights:

- High-need children:** The schools will all come from areas where 80% of the students don't meet grade level standards. And the campuses must be non-selective and enroll special education students and English language learners at rates similar to district averages.

•**Traditional schools:** This round of grants is only for LA Unified campuses. GPSN will have separate processes and funding to support other educational efforts, including teacher training programs and charter organizations.

Town Halls Coming!

We hope to learn more about the city's educational needs through the school expansion grants and how to improve our process, and anticipate doing even more to replicate great schools in the near future.

It was gratifying to come to this agreement, but we're still looking for new ideas about how to replicate successful schools and are holding two town halls soon. The first will be on Oct. 22nd, when we're looking to hear from northeast San Fernando Valley residents on what their communities need from schools and what they want to see more of. There will also be complimentary day-care and lunch. [Come check out the event!](#) We're following that meeting up with another one in South L.A. at Los Angeles Southwest College on Dec. 10. We'll have more details on that event shortly.

GPSN Founding Team News

In other news, GPSN is now a team of six! Director of Communications **Jason Song**, Director of Talent **Eric DeSobe**, Director of School Growth **Lauren Tate**, Director of Operations **Isabel Acosta**, and Outreach Manager **Cynthia Kanagui**. Jason came from the Los Angeles Times, where he was a reporter for nine years, most of it covering education. Eric was most recently at KIPP LA Schools, where he was the associate director of recruitment. Lauren was most recently the chief of staff with the Achievement School District in Memphis, TN. Isabel, a native Angelena, comes to us from The Broad Foundation. And Cynthia was with IDEA Public Schools in South Texas.

Now that our staffing is almost complete, we anticipate generating more good news to share and will be sending out a newsletter once a month.

As always, feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or at our [Facebook](#) page. See you at the town halls!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Mckenna, George](#)
Cc: [Haber, Shannon](#); [Jason Song](#); [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
Subject: GPSN to Host Community Event This Month
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2016 6:16:34 PM
Attachments: [Pacoima Panorama Town Hall 2016 English Spanish.pdf](#)

Dear Superintendent King and Members of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District,

Great Public Schools Now will be hosting our first outreach event of the year for parents and community members in the Pacoima and Panorama City area on Oct. 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We hope our Town Hall will bring together families to learn more about what they are looking for in high quality schools, and how we can improve access. We hope to host about 300 people and will have a Q&A session and a series of roundtable discussions. The feedback gleaned from this effort to continue to shape our community engagement strategy and funding priorities.

Our Community Outreach and Engagement Manager, Cynthia Kanagui, has been presenting to parents at various schools in the area and is looking forward to any opportunity to connect with Northeast leaders and parents.

We welcome your attendance or participation in this event, and please let us know if you have any questions about this event. We will be hosting similar events throughout the year in each of the areas where GPSN will focus its efforts. We very much look forward to gleaning perspective from Los Angeles families that will continue to help guide our mission.

We have attached a copy of the event flier for your convenience.

All the best,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: Clarification Note
Date: Friday, September 30, 2016 10:18:36 AM

Thanks to you, specifically, for helping us get here!!

Myrna

On Fri, Sep 30, 2016 at 10:07 AM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member)

<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Wow! Awesome!

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Date: 9/30/16 8:51 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: "Zimmer, Steven" <szimmer@lausd.net>, "Rodriguez, Ref" <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net>, "Ratliff, Monica" <monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>

Cc: "King, Michelle Superintendent" <michelle.king@lausd.net>, "Haber, Shannon" <shannon.haber@lausd.net>, Glenn Gritzner [REDACTED], Jason Song <jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Subject: Clarification Note

Dear Members of the Board of Education of Los Angeles Unified School District,

Yesterday, Great Public Schools Now was proud to announce something we had long planned, and that this Board played a key role in facilitating - [up to \\$3.75 million in funds to expand or replicate high performing LAUSD schools](#). This is a part of our ongoing commitment to promoting quality education around Los Angeles, without getting bogged down in the politics around school governance.

As our announcement made clear, and as Superintendent King may have told you, these funds are exclusively for LAUSD-governed schools. There is no competition with charters for the same dollars. I was surprised to see a headline in the print edition of the Los Angeles Times this morning that seemed to indicate otherwise, and I wanted to email you to clear up any confusion.

Once again, this money, up to \$3.75 million, is only for the replication of LAUSD-governed schools.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your support and assistance.

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: GPSN: Launch & Other News
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016 3:12:38 PM

Dear Board Member Garcia,

It has been an exciting four months at Great Public Schools Now leading up to the successful launch of our initiative on June 16, 2016. We are energized and grateful for the positive response our efforts generated across the community, and how many of you across Los Angeles are ready to join us to make sure every child in LA has access to a high quality public school education! You affirmed our belief that parents, families, and community members believe like we do that every child in Los Angeles deserves that chance, because the future of our city depends on it.

One of the key documents that resulted from the launch was a new plan outlining the core areas of our work: deep and authentic community engagement, strengthening teachers and leaders, providing support for adequate facilities, and most importantly, the replication of high quality public schools. We have prioritized 10 Los Angeles neighborhoods where we will begin investing our time, resources, and innovative thinking. Please follow this [link](#) for more information on these focal regions as well as our updated launch plan.

Since the launch, we have focused on opening avenues of collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and engaging in meaningful dialogue with Superintendent Michelle King. We are in the process of partnering with community groups and local funders to garner additional support for our effort. Lastly, we made a few key investments as demonstration grants that point the way to the kind of support we will provide, as many organizations across Los Angeles align with our vision and mission to build and replicate quality schools.

Thank you for your support of Great Public Schools Now! We need to hear directly from you how we can make a greater impact, and we plan to host two Town Halls this fall and three Town Halls in the spring of 2017. Your feedback, input, and attendance is extremely important to us and is absolutely critical in shaping the direction of our organization.

Stay tuned for more details about the upcoming town halls via our website and through social media in the next few weeks. Please stay informed by visiting our main page at [Greatpublicschoolsnow.org](http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org) and our Facebook page @GreatPublicSchoolsNow!

Adelante!

Myrna

Myrna Castrejon
<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

--==--

Great Public Schools Now · United States

This email was sent to monica.garcia@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

--==--

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Launch - Next Steps
Date: Friday, July 8, 2016 3:14:08 PM

Honorable Members of the School Board of LAUSD,

I was proud to stand at HOLA recently and, with other educational advocates and activists, announce the official launch of Great Public Schools Now. As you [may have heard](#), our first set of announced 'demonstration' grants will benefit students in district schools as well as those in charters in some of the region's most struggling neighborhoods.

Now that we've launched, I'd love to come brief you on our thinking and hear your thoughts and priorities for where we go from here. The goal of Great Public Schools Now is to help as many students as possible – a goal I know we all share.

I look forward to meeting with you soon, and to discussing this important work in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: disregard request:::Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:43:22 PM

sorry for delay; was in back to back press...let me know if you need anything else; your response was amazing! gracias!

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2016, at 10:36 AM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

I found Website

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 14, 2016, at 7:06 PM, Myrna Castrejon
<mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Honorable Members of the LAUSD School Board:

Over the last few months, we have met with over 50 leaders and community organizations to develop a plan to help improve outcomes for students in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles. I'm reaching out to you to let you know, before it becomes public, that this effort, Great Public Schools Now, will be officially launching this Thursday, with articles coming out Wednesday ahead of the official launch. We all share one goal - making sure that the children of LAUSD get the best education possible, and leave school ready to succeed in the world.

The idea behind GPSN is to work to improve facilities, give support to teachers, expand community engagement, and replicate effective schools whether charter, pilot, magnet, or traditional district school efforts. Once the launch takes place, the full plan will be available on our website.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference for the children of Los Angeles - and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me

with any questions

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 2:04:23 PM

beautiful! thank you!!

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2016, at 11:05 AM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Inspiring opportunity to increase achievement, opportunity and learning for students and the adults who build support and services for them.

Accelerating achievement is a goal very much aligned with LAUSD families & leadership.

I very much appreciate GPSN leadership & experience in serving youth and transforming systems. GPSN is strengthened by champions for children and high commitment individuals who have been partners in the work of LA for several decades.

Lastly, when talent, resources and urgency comes to assist LAUSD in addressing unmet need in extremely challenging environments, I am grateful that Superintendent King & so many leaders are embracing the opportunity to build the bridges towards success that lift our students out of poverty, marginalization and into their rightful place

in creating solutions for our communities. The quest for educational justice has been a challenge since Mendez vs Westminster in 1947. We have much work to do.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org; [Maria Casillas](#)
Subject: Fwd: need reax/analysis to Great Public Schools Now plan
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:07:58 AM

FYI

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Blume, Howard" [REDACTED] >
Date: June 15, 2016 at 10:43:03 AM PDT
To: "Blume, Howard" [REDACTED]
Subject: need reax/analysis to Great Public Schools Now plan

I'm on an early deadline, so please try to get back to me before 12:30 pm. Written response is fine.

Some questions to ponder:

To what extent, is this good or bad for LA Unified?
To what extent are you persuaded that charter schools are not the focus of this effort?
What should be the response of Michelle King?
How does this effort fit into the larger context of efforts to improve education in Los Angeles and beyond?
Anything else?

--hb
[REDACTED]

From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Howard Blume](#)
Cc: [Armenta, Isidro](#); [Patron, Lizette](#)
Bcc: mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org; [Maria Casillas](#)
Subject: GPSN
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:05:11 AM

>

> Inspiring opportunity to increase achievement, opportunity and learning for students and the adults who build support and services for them.

>

> Accelerating achievement is a goal very much aligned with LAUSD families & leadership.

>

> I very much appreciate GPSN leadership & experience in serving youth and transforming systems. GPSN is strengthened by champions for children and high commitment individuals who have been partners in the work of LA for several decades.

>

> Lastly, when talent, resources and urgency comes to assist LAUSD in addressing unmet need in extremely challenging environments, I am grateful that Superintendent King & so many leaders are embracing the opportunity to build the bridges towards success that lift our students out of poverty, marginalization and into their rightful place in creating solutions for our communities. The quest for educational justice has been a challenge since Mendez vs Westminster in 1947. We have much work to do.

>

> Sent from my iPad

From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Howard Blume](#)
Cc: [Armenta, Isidro](#); [Patron, Lizette](#)
Bcc: mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org; [Maria Casillas](#)
Subject: GPSN
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 11:05:09 AM

>

> Inspiring opportunity to increase achievement, opportunity and learning for students and the adults who build support and services for them.

>

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>

> Lastly, when talent, resources and urgency comes to assist LAUSD in addressing unmet need in extremely challenging environments, I am grateful that Superintendent King & so many leaders are embracing the opportunity to build the bridges towards success that lift our students out of poverty, marginalization and into their rightful place in creating solutions for our communities. The quest for educational justice has been a challenge since Mendez vs Westminster in 1947. We have much work to do.

>

> Sent from my iPad

From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: disregard request:::Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:36:42 AM

I found Website

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 14, 2016, at 7:06 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Honorable Members of the LAUSD School Board:

Over the last few months, we have met with over 50 leaders and community organizations to develop a plan to help improve outcomes for students in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles. I'm reaching out to you to let you know, before it becomes public, that this effort, Great Public Schools Now, will be officially launching this Thursday, with articles coming out Wednesday ahead of the official launch. We all share one goal - making sure that the children of LAUSD get the best education possible, and leave school ready to succeed in the world.

The idea behind GPSN is to work to improve facilities, give support to teachers, expand community engagement, and replicate effective schools whether charter, pilot, magnet, or traditional district school efforts. Once the launch takes place, the full plan will be available on our website.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference for the children of Los Angeles - and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: disregard request:::Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:36:41 AM

I found Website

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 14, 2016, at 7:06 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Honorable Members of the LAUSD School Board:

Over the last few months, we have met with over 50 leaders and community organizations to develop a plan to help improve outcomes for students in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles. I'm reaching out to you to let you know, before it becomes public, that this effort, Great Public Schools Now, will be officially launching this Thursday, with articles coming out Wednesday ahead of the official launch. We all share one goal - making sure that the children of LAUSD get the best education possible, and leave school ready to succeed in the world.

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I am looking forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference for the children of Los Angeles - and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
Subject: Can you send me the plan?
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 10:32:25 AM

LASR wants a comment . Thx

Sent from my iPad

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:19:40 PM

Gracias!!

On Tue, Jun 14, 2016 at 7:07 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member)
<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Congratulations!!

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 6/14/16 7:06 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Robinson, Sharon V." <sharon.v.robinson@lausd.net>, "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Aguas, Jenny" <jenny.aguas@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Irlando, Arlene" <arlene.irlando@lausd.net>, "Ratliff, Monica" <monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, Refugio.rodriguez@lausd.net, "Aman, Aixle" <aixle.aman@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Torres, Chris" <chris.torres@lausd.net>, "Zimmer, Steven" <zimmer@lausd.net>, "Vizcarra, Claudia" <claudia.vizcarra@lausd.net>
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches


Dear Honorable Members of the LAUSD School Board:

Over the last few months, we have met with over 50 leaders and community organizations to develop a plan to help improve outcomes for students in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles. I'm reaching out to you to let you know, before it becomes public, that this effort, Great Public Schools Now, will be officially launching this Thursday, with articles coming out Wednesday ahead of the official launch. We all share one goal - making sure that the children of LAUSD get the best education possible, and leave school ready to succeed in the world.

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Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org


From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: RE: Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:07:49 PM

Congratulations!!

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 6/14/16 7:06 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Robinson, Sharon V." <sharon.v.robinson@lausd.net>, "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Aguas, Jenny" <jenny.aguas@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>, "Irlando, Arlene" <arlene.irlando@lausd.net>, "Ratliff, Monica" <monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, Refugio.rodriguez@lausd.net, "Aman, Aixle" <aixle.aman@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Torres, Chris" <chris.torres@lausd.net>, "Zimmer, Steven" <szimmer@lausd.net>, "Vizcarra, Claudia" <claudia.vizcarra@lausd.net>
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#); [Robinson, Sharon V.](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Aguas, Jenny](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Irlando, Arlene](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); Refugio.rodriquez@lausd.net; [Aman, Aixle](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Torres, Chris](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Vizcarra, Claudia](#)
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:06:18 PM

Dear Honorable Members of the LAUSD School Board:

Over the last few months, we have met with over 50 leaders and community organizations to develop a plan to help improve outcomes for students in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles. I'm reaching out to you to let you know, before it becomes public, that this effort, Great Public Schools Now, will be officially launching this Thursday, with articles coming out Wednesday ahead of the official launch. We all share one goal - making sure that the children of LAUSD get the best education possible, and leave school ready to succeed in the world.

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I am looking forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference for the children of Los Angeles - and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: Gracias!!!
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 9:44:31 PM

yes! we already have a meeting scheduled for Monday. will follow up with Frances Gipson too!

de nuevo, mil gracias!

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2016, at 9:09 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Call Michelle tomorrow - schedule mtg w,Frances Gipson asap

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 05/10/2016 8:49 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Subject: Gracias!!!

Eager to chart a good course!

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]

From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: RE: Gracias!!!
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 9:09:02 PM

Call Michelle tomorrow - schedule mtg w,Frances Gipson asap

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 05/10/2016 8:49 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Subject: Gracias!!!

Eager to chart a good course!

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

From: monica.garcia@lausd.net
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: RE: Gracias!!!
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 9:09:01 PM

Call Michelle tomorrow - schedule mtg w,Frances Gipson asap

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 05/10/2016 8:49 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Subject: Gracias!!!

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Gracias!!!
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 8:49:00 PM

Eager to chart a good course!

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Campos, Edgar](#)
Subject: May Resolution
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 5:03:25 PM

Good afternoon,

Just a quick note to connect on the Board resolution slated for a vote May 10, as we haven't connected since the April meeting. Would appreciate a quick update on where you think this is moving, and if there is anything we can do to help - including not helping.

Hope you are all well - it has certainly been a whirlwind the past few weeks!

Best,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Anita Landecker](#)
Cc: [Gonzalez, Erika](#); [Liza Bercovici](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Sarah Angel](#); [Emilio Pack](#); [Hrag Hamalian](#); [emorris@endeavorcollegeprep.org](#); [C De Jesus](#); [Yvette King-Berg](#); [John Sun](#); [Mike Keeley](#); [Louise Manuel](#); [malbert@newlosangeles.org](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Aman, Aixle](#); [Campos, Edgar](#)
Subject: Re: Meeting to explore Prop 39 Alternatives
Date: Monday, April 18, 2016 5:20:49 PM

May 17 works for me

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2016, at 5:10 PM, Anita Landecker <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I will attend.

On Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 1:57 PM, Gonzalez, Erika
<erika.j.gonzalez@lausd.net> wrote:

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope this email finds everyone well.

We'd like to go ahead and schedule to meet on **Tuesday, May 3rd from 6-8 pm** at Gabriella Charter School. Please reply to this email confirming your attendance by this Friday, April 22nd for catering purposes.

Gabriella Charter School is located on the campus of Logan Street Elementary School at 1435 Logan Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026. The parking lot for GCS staff and visitors is located at 1615 Montana between Logan Street and Echo Park Blvd (north side of street, look for the GCS sign). From the parking lot, walk west on Montana and turn right onto Logan Street. The GCS section of the campus is accessible through a gate on Logan Street. Push the intercom button to request entry and proceed through the gate. Follow the blue footsteps to the main office to check in. [Click here](#) to see our location on Google Maps.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

Best,

Erika J. Gonzalez

Director of Operations

Office of Dr. Ref Rodriguez

Board of Education, District 5

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office: [REDACTED]

From: Rodriguez, Ref

Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:11 AM

To: Matt Albert

Cc: Liza Bercovici; Garcia, Monica (Board Member); Myrna Castrejon; Sarah Angel; Emilio Pack; Hrag Hamalian; emorris@endeavorcollegeprep.org; C De Jesus; Yvette King-Berg; John Sun; Mike Keeley; Louise Manuel; Anita Landecker; Aman, Aixle; Gonzalez, Erika

Subject: Re: Requesting meeting to explore Prop 39 alternative with 'win-win' approach for all students

As a next step, I would love to have a face to face meeting with those of you who can attend to discuss potential collaborations and next steps. I can share at that time information regarding internal meetings I have had with President Zimmer and Jose Cole Gutierrez and Dr. Francis Gibson regarding a "win-win" approach.

Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez

Member, Board of Education

Los Angeles Unified School District

ref.rodriguez@lausd.net

[REDACTED]

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Cc: [Matt Albert](#); [Liza Bercovici](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Sarah Angel](#); [Emilio Pack](#); [Hrag Hamalian](#); [emorris@endeavorcollegeprep.org](#); [C De Jesus](#); [Yvette King-Berg](#); [John Sun](#); [Mike Keeley](#); [Louise Manuel](#); [Anita Landecker](#); [Aman, Aixle](#); [Gonzalez, Erika](#)
Subject: Re: Requesting meeting to explore Prop 39 alternative with "win-win" approach for all students
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:58:25 AM

Excellent!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 14, 2016, at 9:10 AM, Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

As a next step, I would love to have a face to face meeting with those of you who can attend to discuss potential collaborations and next steps. I can share at that time information regarding internal meetings I have had with President Zimmer and Jose Cole Gutierrez and Dr. Francis Gibson regarding a "win-win" approach.

Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez
Member, Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
ref.rodriguez@lausd.net

On Apr 7, 2016, at 12:39 PM, Matt Albert [REDACTED] wrote:

I'd chime in here to add that the District intentionally prevents any collaboration for new co-locations by prohibiting contact between the charter school and District school. I'd like to think that between February 1 - April 1, there's an opportunity to work with the principals to look for ways the co-location could benefit the District school. That way, the arrival of the charter school, while legally required, could at least have a chance of being met with benefits to the District school or SEIU.

--

Matt Albert, Ed.D.
Executive Director
[1919 S. Burnside Avenue](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90016](#)
T: [REDACTED]
F: [323.939.6411](tel:323.939.6411)
www.newlosangeles.org



On Apr 7, 2016, at 12:19 PM, Liza Bercovici [REDACTED] wrote:

Monica,

Thanks so much for responding.

To answer both your emails:

We have not connected yet with Legal, the Superintendent or CSD. We wanted to start first by sharing with Ref and you our desire to work together on this to see if the idea had traction at a leadership level.

The proposal as envisioned would apply to current co-locations or new opportunities.

We have yet to identify particular sites or host schools who might be interested in the idea. We thought that District principals with potential co-location sites might feel more comfortable exploring our proposal were the meeting to be convened by Board Members.

Any recommendation from you re next steps is very appreciated.

All the best,

Liza

--

Liza Bercovici
Executive Director
Gabriella Charter Schools
See GCS Students "At The Playground" -
- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Aktz-X7sENg>
and these recital snippets:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2oZuS7A0CY> (4th grade tap)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3D-r-QszEco> (7th grade boys)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ri6WQV_Y8RU (3rd grade mimes)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGSoh-NFRQI> (5th grade Ringmasters)

On Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 10:24 AM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Thank you very much Liza and team for your thoughtful recommendation re Prop 39.

Help me know if your intention is to explore the longer agreement with current co-locations principals or new opportunities. I am curious about the thinking from our Supt., legal and cds leaders. Have you shared this with any of them?

From: Liza Bercovici [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 8:47 AM
To: LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Ref Rodriguez <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net>
Cc: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>, Sarah Angel <[sange\[REDACTED\]](mailto:sange[REDACTED])>, New LA Charter <[malbert@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:malbert@[REDACTED])>, Emilio Pack <[emilio.pack@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:emilio.pack@[REDACTED])> Hrag Hamalian <[hhamalian@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:hhamalian@[REDACTED])>, "emorris[REDACTED]" <[emorris@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:emorris@[REDACTED])>, Cristina De Jesus <[cdejesus@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:cdejesus@[REDACTED])>, Yvette King Berg <[ykingberg@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:ykingberg@[REDACTED])> John Sun <[john@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:john@[REDACTED])>, Mike Keeley <[mike@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:mike@[REDACTED])>, Louise Manuel <[LManue@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:LManue@[REDACTED])>, Anita Landecker <[ALandecker@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:ALandecker@[REDACTED])>
Subject: Requesting meeting to explore Prop 39 alternative with 'win-win' approach for all students

Monica, Ref --

We would appreciate your reviewing the attached letter.

We believe our suggested approach could improve for all students the quality of District co-locations.

Thank you both for all you do for children in Los Angeles.

Liza

--

Liza Bercovici
Executive Director
Gabriella Charter Schools

See GCS Students "At The Playground" -
- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Aktz-X7sENg>
and these recital snippets:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2oZuS7A0CY> (4th grade tap)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3D-r-QszFco> (7th grade boys)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ri6WQV_Y8RU (3rd grade mimes)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGSoh-NFRQI> (5th grade Ringmasters)

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Campos, Edgar](#)
Cc: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: FW : Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 7:24:40 PM

will do!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2016, at 7:07 PM, Campos, Edgar <edgar.campos@lausd.net> wrote:

Yes send me wording tomorrow we can add so I can share with Monica. I will also take a stab at the same.

Best,

Edgar Campos

Chief Strategy Officer
Office of Board Member Mónica García
Board of Education, District 2
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles CA 90017
P: [REDACTED] | F: 213.241.8459

2,000 STUDENTS CAN QUALIFY FOR DIPLOMAS THEY NEVER GOT 2004 TO 2014 - find out how @ <http://achieve.lausd.net/cahsee>

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:04 PM
To: Edgar Campos <edgar.campos@lausd.net>
Cc: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Subject: Re: FW : Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices

Excellent; if there's anything we can do let me know - we obviously lose the on ramp of a month to work in more public support from other philanthropic partners, but i think, again, expediency may work to our advantage. Shall we take a pass at a merged document?

myrna

On Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 6:48 PM, Campos, Edgar <edgar.campos@lausd.net> wrote:

I would agree. I've CC'd Monica so she sees your points as well.

Best,

Edgar Campos

Chief Strategy Officer

Office of Board Member Mónica García

Board of Education, District 2

Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles CA 90017

P: [REDACTED] | F: [213.241.8459](tel:213.241.8459)

2,000 STUDENTS CAN QUALIFY FOR DIPLOMAS THEY NEVER GOT 2004 TO 2014 - find out how @ <http://achieve.lausd.net/cahsee>

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:37 PM

To: Edgar Campos <edgar.campos@lausd.net>

Subject: Re: FW : Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices

Edgar, I'm finally NOT driving and just saw this. We are open to merging both resolutions for fast action, provided it applies to all district models (pilot, partnership, magnet and 'vanilla' district schools), not just magnet; and that there be "outside support" encouraged. Now, I can see Mr Zimmer proposing an exclusion for GPSN, but i guess we cross that bridge when we get there. I think the positives of acting fast outweigh the risks of waiting for opposition to build, if we can get to 4 votes. Don't you think?

Call me or reach out if you have additional insight or questions!

Myrna

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2016, at 4:20 PM, Campos, Edgar <edgar.campos@lausd.net> wrote:

Wanted to make you aware of a couple of things:

1. Of this request below for a story.
2. An informative in which we ask for similar things to our reso from months back.
3. Point out "Supporting Quality Education Options... Reso"..aka Item 47 by Ratliff is up for action tomorrow.
4. Reiterated that our "Offering Families More ... Reso" aka Item 49 by you and our office is for up initial announcement tomorrow and May

for action.

I attached the board agenda so you may see the similarity in the the objective of the two reso's. Do you have an opinion about keeping our own language and pursuing our own reso next month. Or, if Ms. Garcia can, mesh it into the one for action tomorrow?

Best,

Edgar Campos

Chief Strategy Officer

Office of Board Member Mónica García

Board of Education, District 2

Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles CA 90017

P: [REDACTED] | F: [213.241.8459](tel:213.241.8459)

2,000 STUDENTS CAN QUALIFY FOR DIPLOMAS THEY NEVER GOT 2004 TO 2014 - find out how @ <http://achieve.lausd.net/cahsee>

From: LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>

Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 at 2:53 PM

To: "mikeszy [REDACTED]" <[mikeszy \[REDACTED\]](mailto:mikeszy [REDACTED])>

Cc: Edgar Campos <edgar.campos@lausd.net>, Isidro Armenta <isidro.armenta@lausd.net>

Subject: FW : Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices

Hi Mike,

Interesting on these resos.

I am sharing with you a memo from last year where the theme emerges again. There are probably other resos interested in the issue of creating more of what works and accelerating opportunity and achievement.

I am excited that the Board is interested in being more intentional and strategic on resourcing and creating success. I hope there is a Board majority that wants to be public about their support for a Supt. Plan of Action to increase achievement, creates excellence and supports equity and high quality schools in every community.

Many of our schools are great learning spaces with proven records of success, others are emerging as growth is consistent & enrollment is growing, and still others are moving to re-organize, re-purpose and re-energize. LAUSD has made improvements in multiple models : magnet, IB, pilot, small , link learning, small themed schools, dual language and community schools. My resolution is about creating diverse options for families to choose the district, stay in the district and celebrate 100% graduation with this district.

MG

From: Mike Szymanski <mikeszy[REDACTED]>
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 at 2:09 PM
Subject: Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices

Hey, it's Mike from LA SCHOOL REPORT.

I'm doing an advance story on the two very unique and similar resolutions Offering Families More – Promoting, Celebrating and Replicating Success Across LAUSD, and **Supporting Quality Educational Options for Students and Families** and wondered if you would have any comment or input today for the story which I'm hoping to publish on the site by 5 p.m.

If so, please send along a statement by email or call me at [REDACTED], my cell, thanks! Either way, I will see you tomorrow.

-m

Mike Szymanski

<ExpandingPromisingPractices.docx>

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Campos, Edgar](#)
Cc: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: FW : Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 7:04:41 PM

Excellent; if there's anything we can do let me know - we obviously lose the on ramp of a month to work in more public support from other philanthropic partners, but i think, again, expediency may work to our advantage. Shall we take a pass at a merged document?

myrna

On Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 6:48 PM, Campos, Edgar <edgar.campos@lausd.net> wrote:

I would agree. I've CC'd Monica so she sees your points as well.

Best,

Edgar Campos

Chief Strategy Officer

Office of Board Member Mónica García

Board of Education, District 2

Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles CA 90017

P: [REDACTED] | F: [REDACTED]

2,000 STUDENTS CAN QUALIFY FOR DIPLOMAS THEY NEVER GOT 2004 TO 2014 - find out how @ <http://achieve.lausd.net/cahsee>

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:37 PM

To: Edgar Campos <edgar.campos@lausd.net>

Subject: Re: FW : Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices

Edgar, I'm finally NOT driving and just saw this. We are open to merging both resolutions for fast action, provided it applies to all district models (pilot, partnership, magnet and 'vanilla' district schools), not just magnet; and that there be "outside support" encouraged. Now, I can see Mr Zimmer proposing an exclusion for GPSN, but i guess we cross that bridge when we get there. I think the positives of acting fast outweigh the risks of waiting for opposition to build, if we can get to 4 votes. Don't you think?

Call me or reach out if you have additional insight or questions!

Myrna

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2016, at 4:20 PM, Campos, Edgar <edgar.campos@lausd.net> wrote:

Wanted to make you aware of a couple of things:

1. Of this request below for a story.
2. An informative in which we ask for similar things to our reso from months back.
3. Point out "Supporting Quality Education Options... Reso"..aka Item 47 by Ratliff is up for action tomorrow.
4. Reiterated that our "Offering Families More ... Reso" aka Item 49 by you and our office is for up initial announcement tomorrow and May for action.

I attached the board agenda so you may see the similarity in the the objective of the two reso's. Do you have an opinion about keeping our own language and pursuing our own reso next month. Or, if Ms. Garcia can, mesh it into the one for action tomorrow?

Best,

Edgar Campos

Chief Strategy Officer

Office of Board Member Mónica García

Board of Education, District 2

Los Angeles Unified School District

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor, Los Angeles CA 90017

P [REDACTED] | F: [213.241.8459](tel:213.241.8459)

2,000 STUDENTS CAN QUALIFY FOR DIPLOMAS THEY NEVER GOT 2004 TO 2014 - find out how @ <http://achieve.lausd.net/cahsee>

From: LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>

Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 at 2:53 PM

To: "mikeszy [REDACTED]" <[mikeszy \[REDACTED\]](mailto:mikeszy [REDACTED])>

Cc: Edgar Campos <edgar.campos@lausd.net>, Isidro Armenta <isidro.armenta@lausd.net>

Subject: FW : Writing about 2 resolutions involving magnet and best practices

Hi Mike,

Interesting on these resos.

I am sharing with you a memo from last year where the theme emerges again. There are probably other resos interested in the issue of creating more of what works and accelerating opportunity and achievement.

I am excited that the Board is interested in being more intentional and strategic on resourcing and creating success. I hope there is a Board majority that wants to be public about their support for a Supt. Plan of Action to increase achievement, creates excellence and supports equity and high quality schools in every community.

Many of our schools are great learning spaces with proven records of success, others are emerging as growth is consistent & enrollment is growing, and still others are moving to re-organize, re-purpose and re-energize. LAUSD has made improvements in multiple models : magnet, IB, pilot, small , link learning, small themed schools, dual language and community schools. My resolution is about creating diverse options for families to choose the district, stay in the district and celebrate 100% graduation with this district.

MG

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I'm doing an advance story on the two very unique and similar resolutions Offering Families More – Promoting, Celebrating and Replicating Success Across LAUSD, and Supporting Quality Educational Options for Students and Families and wondered if you would have any comment or input today for the story which I'm hoping to publish on the site by 5 p.m.

If so, please send along a statement by email or call me at [REDACTED] cell, thanks!
Either way, I will see you tomorrow.

-m

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Sarah Angel](#); [Cassy Horton](#); [Monica Garcia](#)
Subject: Re: Joe Lucente's Presentation
Date: Friday, April 8, 2016 11:48:49 PM

Brilliant! Papa Joe is such a gem for his community and the movement. Thanks for sharing!


Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2016, at 5:27 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

From: LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 4:39 PM
To: LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Lizette Patron <lizette.patron@lausd.net>, "Aguas, Jenny" <jenny.aguas@lausd.net>
Subject: FW: Joe Lucente's Presentation

For the file on charters

From: Irene Sumida [<mailto:isumida@> 
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 7:24 PM
To: Garcia, Monica (Board Member); Martinez, Nury
Cc: Joe Lucente
Subject: Joe Lucente's Presentation

Good evening Monica and Nury:

I thought you might be interested in reading what Joe planned to share yesterday if there had been time, so I am attaching the full comments from yesterday's board meeting. Thank you so much for your votes, and I especially appreciate your comments, Nury, regarding following the law!

Irene

--



Irene Sumida, Executive Director
Fenton Charter Public Schools
11828 Gain Street
Lake View Terrace, CA 91342

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#)
Subject: Re: Replication/Partnership Resolution
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016 4:58:32 PM

Great, thank you!

Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 31, 2016, at 4:20 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

>

> Absolutely - my staff person is Edgar Campos as a primary and Lizette

> Patron as a secondary.

>

> On 3/31/16, 3:32 PM, "Myrna Castrejon"

> <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

>

>> Monica and Ref,

>> Thank you so much for such energizing conversation about the challenges

>> ahead for Los Angeles and how we can work to leverage success for kids in

>> partnership. I feel hopeful and re-committed to the task ahead.

>>

>> One quick follow up on the draft resolution; as you continue to work with

>> your staff to integrate the language that will make it successful, we

>> would appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback and stay in the loop

>> on process. I've cc'd Glenn Gritzner here who can help connect with your

>> staff, as you assign, and stay aligned.

>>

>> Very excited about the weeks ahead!

>>

>> My best,

>>

>> Myrna Castrejón

>> Executive Director

>> Great Public Schools Now

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Cc: [Glenn Gritzner](#)
Subject: Replication/Partnership Resolution
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016 3:32:15 PM

Monica and Ref,

Thank you so much for such energizing conversation about the challenges ahead for Los Angeles and how we can work to leverage success for kids in partnership. I feel hopeful and re-committed to the task ahead.

One quick follow up on the draft resolution; as you continue to work with your staff to integrate the language that will make it successful, we would appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback and stay in the loop on process. I've cc'd Glenn Gritzner here who can help connect with your staff, as you assign, and stay aligned.

Very excited about the weeks ahead!

My best,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Subject: Re: Saludos and follow up
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 6:06:52 PM

location?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2016, at 3:12 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Ref can join at 7 also... ok w you?

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 03/28/2016 1:16 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Subject: Re: Saludos and follow up

my last meeting ends at 4 on the westside. I'll come to you wherever you're headed.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2016, at 1:14 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Where are you at that time?

I am in Downtown moVing towards,El Sereno

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 03/28/2016 1:00 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Subject: Re: Saludos and follow up

Definitely free! You're penciled in! where?

myrna

On Mon, Mar 28, 2016 at 12:58 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Hola,

Yes ! Are you free for a call or coffee Tuesday 7pm?

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Date: 03/28/2016 12:53 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)"

<monica.garcia@lausd.net>

Subject: Saludos and follow up

Hello Monica,

Checking in to see if we can carve out a moment to follow up on GPSN's work and the draft resolution, by phone, if possible?

I'm in LA today through Wednesday this week...

Saludos,

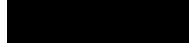
--

Myrna Castrejon

Executive Director

Great Public Schools Now

mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



--



Myrna Castrejon

Executive Director

Great Public Schools Now

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Campos, Edgar](#); [Reza, Sonia](#); [Patron, Lizette](#); [Gomez, Blanca.E.](#)
Subject: Re: The work ahead
Date: Friday, March 18, 2016 5:57:30 PM

Great!! I have no objection to beginning the process, and would love to discuss strategy and timing. Would be delighted to join you on April 6. Safe travels, and enjoy your weekends, everyone!

Warm regards,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 18, 2016, at 5:08 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Love it!

Shall we introduce it for April – Action in May? I am back in LA 3/28. Let me know if there are any objections to beginning the process.

I am copying Edgar Campos – he can send it for introduction if we are ready?

I am copying Sonia – to help us find a time to meet.... Can you join us on April 6 for changing conversations w Michelle King (5-7) and we can get coffee/ dinner after?

Copying Blanca and Lizette as fyi to them.

Welcome!!

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: Friday, March 11, 2016 at 4:57 PM
To: LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>
Subject: The work ahead

Good afternoon!

The past two weeks ramping up with Great Public Schools Now have been a whirlwind of activity to get our new organization up and running. We recently received our 501c3 letter and are finalizing our founding Board of Directors to start the work in earnest. It is an exciting time, and I'm particularly enjoying the many conversations I'm having with leaders like you and throughout the community in Los Angeles about the many possibilities that exist for moving the

agenda for kids forward. I hope I can catch up with you in person very soon!

In the meantime, I wanted to follow up on a conversation Gregory McGinity broached with you a few weeks back, before I officially started, about the possibility of introducing a resolution that affirms the opportunity for GPSN to support district-led projects. As you now, we are eager to highlight the bright spots where excellence within LAUSD can point the way for additional replication and support. We've taken the liberty of drafting up what such a resolution could look like, along with specific examples of district programs that deserve recognition and support. Let me know if this is an idea you think is timely and wise to pursue, and how we can work together to bring focus to what's working - regardless of governance structure, program or union affiliation.

I hope to connect with you in person very soon. Let me know what works best for you.

Warm regards,

--



Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Gonez, Kelly](#)
Subject: Helping families simplify the charter application process
Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:49:22 PM

Great Public Schools Now



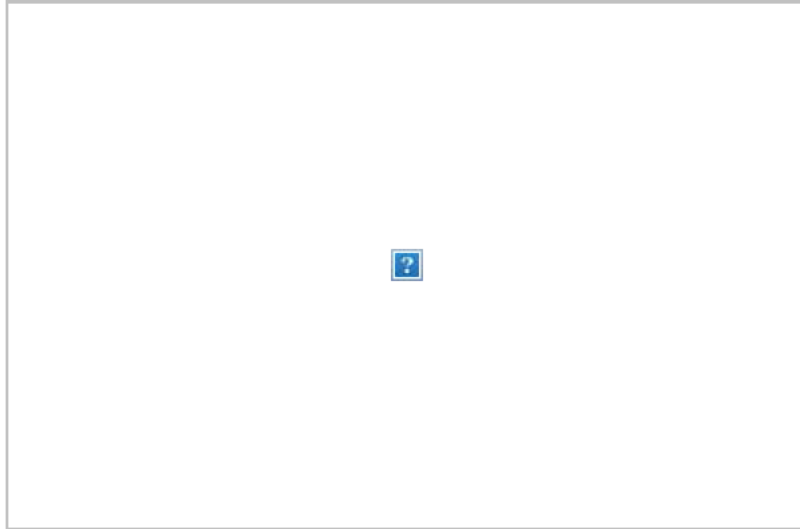
kelly --

For years Los Angeles families have faced a very complicated and disconnected set of applications to find and enroll in great public schools. Each school can have its own requirements, platform, and deadlines, so filling out the paperwork and keeping track of it all can be confusing and even overwhelming for families.

In fact, when GPSN held a series of public events last year to hear from parents about how public education can be improved, many attendees said the current enrollment process wasn't working and that communities needed a more family friendly charter application process.

That's why GPSN launched a single, common-sense application system – [ApplyLA](#) – last week. With ApplyLA, families fill out one application and apply to as many schools as they want in as little as five minutes. The site is off to a great start, with more than **900 applications** already received, and we anticipate that number will grow as more parents spread the word about the site.

For a quick overview on how ApplyLA works, click the video below.



In addition to allowing families to apply to multiple schools with a single application, ApplyLA also:

- Includes about 10% of LA's charter schools. The site currently has [31 schools](#), and we expect that number to grow.
- Is an especially important complement to L.A. Unified's Unified Enrollment system, which does not currently include independent charter schools.
- Allows families to track their applications in English, Spanish and Korean on a mobile-friendly platform. Families can log on at any time to see the status of their applications, apply to more schools, and accept offers in a single system.

GPSN spent the past year working with Parent Revolution and other partners to create ApplyLA, and participating schools include Aspire Public Schools, Bright Star Schools, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, CHIME, Citizens of the World, City Charter, Collegiate Charter High School, Ednovate Charter Schools, Equitas Academy Charter Schools, Green Dot Public Schools, KIPP LA Public Schools, and Para Los Niños.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to kelly.gonez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Gonez, Kelly](#)
Cc: [Lauren Tate](#); [Josh Kinoshita](#)
Subject: Introduction
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:34:00 PM

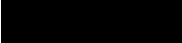
Hello, Kelly

I hope you're well; I wanted to make a quick intro to two members of my team, Lauren Tate, our Senior Director for Strategy and Growth, and Josh Kinoshita, our manager of common enrollment. Lauren and Josh are about to launch ApplyLA, a platform to ease enrollment access for LA charter schools, and we thought perhaps you and your team would like a private demo. We have been working with the charter community and the CSD to ensure our new system's features are within the authorized parameters for schools' enrollment policies, but still significantly ease the burdens of access for the most disadvantaged families. Launching this fall is just a pilot phase, but we are very excited about the many lessons we will learn in the coming year about how to make school choices more equitable, transparent and accessible to families, and more strategic for our partners. Eager to show you/talk more when convenient. Let me know if you want to set something up!

Best,

Myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Gonez, Kelly](#)
Subject: [WARNING!!!! SPAM OR PHISHING?]. Bringing More Great Schools to South LA
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 10:48:55 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



kelly --

The first day of school is approaching, and we're very excited to see students arriving at two new L.A. Unified schools: University Pathways Public Service Academy and University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy.

The schools are the result of years of collaboration with L.A. Unified to find creative ways to replicate high-quality campuses. Using a \$1.5 million GPSN grant, the campuses "recreate" two of South L.A.'s most popular and accomplished schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science. Both of those schools have long waiting lists and cannot accept every student who wants to attend. The new campuses should ensure that fewer families are disappointed.

[To learn more about our work and the students who will be attending the new campuses, check out this ABC 7 story.](#)



We're delighted that GPSN was able to work with L.A. Unified and believe these are the first of many collaborations to make sure that all students in our city get a great education.

[Click here to watch ABC 7's spotlight story and learn more.](#)

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to kelly.gonez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Gonez, Kelly](#)
Subject: New Medical Magnet Opening in South L.A.!
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:41:16 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



kelly --

Parents want their children to have every chance to be successful. That's why the waiting list at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, the only L.A. Unified campus in South L.A. designed to help students become medical professionals, always has a long waiting list and why families are always disappointed when their children don't get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to "re-create" King/Drew at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The "re-created" school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.

MedicalNewsLetterGraphic.png

University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy will be led by Dorothy Cotton-Kindred, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and lives there because she believes that more South L.A. students should be doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

So do we. And we plan on continuing to collaborate with L.A. Unified to make sure that more students in South L.A. and throughout the city have a chance at a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to kelly.gonez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Gonez, Kelly](#)
Subject: Recreating Diego Rivera Public Service This Fall!
Date: Friday, July 13, 2018 12:08:05 PM

Great Public Schools Now



kelly --

Great Public Schools Now's goal is educational equality for all children in our city. That means students in South L.A. should have the same chance at success as children in Westwood.

[For that to happen, South L.A. needs more great options like Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School, an L.A. Unified high school where 98% of students graduate.](#) Because of such success, families flock to apply to the school, and the waiting list is long every year, which means some families aren't able to get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to help "re-create" Diego Rivera at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The new school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.



University Pathways Public Service Academy will be led by Amen Rahh, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and spent his whole educational career working there because he cares passionately about the area and making sure children have every opportunity to succeed.

Making University Pathways Public Service Academy took almost two years of planning and collaboration, and now that the doors are about to open, we're thankful we had such strong partners throughout. When we visited the campuses recently, we saw how excited the students were about their new school, which made all the planning and hard work worth it.

We believe this will be the first of many collaborations between GPSN and L.A. Unified and, more importantly, the start of a new school that will give generations of South L.A. students a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to kelly.gonez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Gonez, Kelly](#)
Subject: Building a "One City, All Kids" Coalition
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:16:35 AM

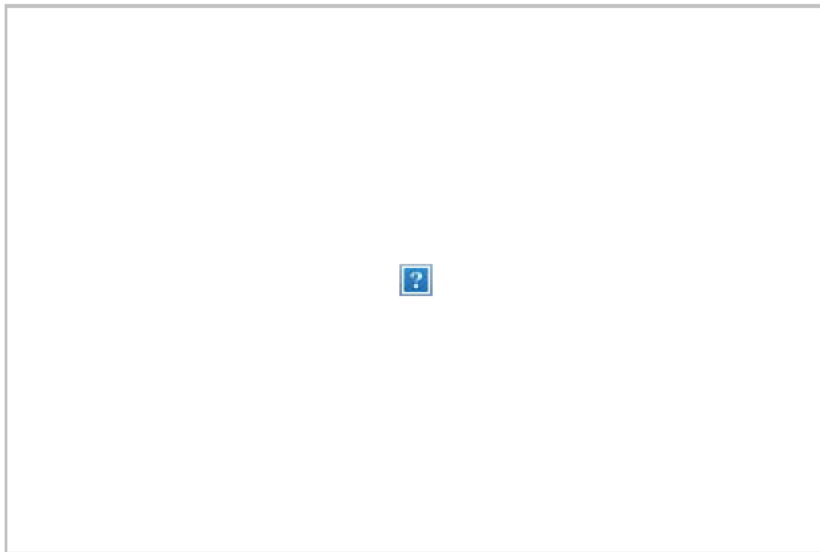
[Great Public Schools Now](#)



kelly --

Making sure that all students in Los Angeles have access to a high-quality education will take a unified community of educators, parents, and leaders who recognize that kids must come first. That's why GPSN was so excited to convene a historic meeting with new L.A. Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, school board members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin, and more than 250 parents from across the city late last month.

Parents were able to tell the new superintendent their hopes for more great teachers, better facilities, and equitable funding. And Beutner, shown below with some parents and educators who attended the meeting, made it clear that he heard their concerns and that improving L.A. Unified will take strong and open dialogue.



We know this is the beginning of a journey that will lead to a “One City, All Kids” plan that ensures greater educational equity across Los Angeles. The meeting marked the first time that so many education advocacy groups, representing all types of public schools, including charters, magnets and traditional campuses, met with Beutner to advocate for their common interests. GPSN believes more collaborations like this will lead to great things for students and families.

Thanks to groups including Parent Revolution, Speak UP, United Parents and Students, CCSA Families, Families in Schools, Alliance for a Better Community, Innercity Struggle, and Promesa Boyle Heights for all their hard work in making the meeting possible.

-- *Great Public Schools Now*



This email was sent to kelly.gonez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: Helping families simplify the charter application process
Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:49:03 PM

Great Public Schools Now



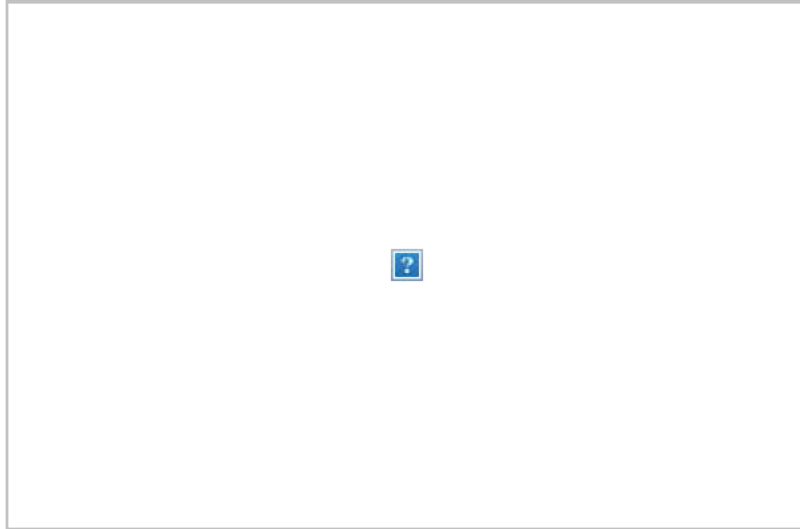
Board Member McKenna --

For years Los Angeles families have faced a very complicated and disconnected set of applications to find and enroll in great public schools. Each school can have its own requirements, platform, and deadlines, so filling out the paperwork and keeping track of it all can be confusing and even overwhelming for families.

In fact, when GPSN held a series of public events last year to hear from parents about how public education can be improved, many attendees said the current enrollment process wasn't working and that communities needed a more family friendly charter application process.

That's why GPSN launched a single, common-sense application system – [ApplyLA](#) – last week. With ApplyLA, families fill out one application and apply to as many schools as they want in as little as five minutes. The site is off to a great start, with more than **900 applications** already received, and we anticipate that number will grow as more parents spread the word about the site.

For a quick overview on how ApplyLA works, click the video below.



In addition to allowing families to apply to multiple schools with a single application, ApplyLA also:

- Includes about 10% of LA's charter schools. The site currently has [31 schools](#), and we expect that number to grow.
- Is an especially important complement to L.A. Unified's Unified Enrollment system, which does not currently include independent charter schools.
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GPSN spent the past year working with Parent Revolution and other partners to create ApplyLA, and participating schools include Aspire Public Schools, Bright Star Schools, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, CHIME, Citizens of the World, City Charter, Collegiate Charter High School, Ednovate Charter Schools, Equitas Academy Charter Schools, Green Dot Public Schools, KIPP LA Public Schools, and Para Los Niños.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to george.mckenna@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: Bringing More Great Schools to South LA
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 10:48:37 AM

Great Public Schools Now



Board Member McKenna --

The first day of school is approaching, and we're very excited to see students arriving at two new L.A. Unified schools: University Pathways Public Service Academy and University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy.

The schools are the result of years of collaboration with L.A. Unified to find creative ways to replicate high-quality campuses. Using a \$1.5 million GPSN grant, the campuses "recreate" two of South L.A.'s most popular and accomplished schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science. Both of those schools have long waiting lists and cannot accept every student who wants to attend. The new campuses should ensure that fewer families are disappointed.

[To learn more about our work and the students who will be attending the new campuses, check out this ABC 7 story.](#)



We're delighted that GPSN was able to work with L.A. Unified and believe these are the first of many collaborations to make sure that all students in our city get a great education.

[Click here to watch ABC 7's spotlight story and learn more.](#)

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to george.mckenna@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: New Medical Magnet Opening in South L.A.!
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:41:04 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Board Member McKenna --

Parents want their children to have every chance to be successful. That's why the waiting list at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, the only L.A. Unified campus in South L.A. designed to help students become medical professionals, always has a long waiting list and why families are always disappointed when their children don't get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to "re-create" King/Drew at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The "re-created" school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.

MedicalNewsLetterGraphic.png

University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy will be led by Dorothy Cotton-Kindred, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and lives there because she believes that more South L.A. students should be doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

So do we. And we plan on continuing to collaborate with L.A. Unified to make sure that more students in South L.A. and throughout the city have a chance at a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to george.mckenna@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: Recreating Diego Rivera Public Service This Fall!
Date: Friday, July 13, 2018 12:07:45 PM

Great Public Schools Now



Board Member McKenna --

Great Public Schools Now's goal is educational equality for all children in our city. That means students in South L.A. should have the same chance at success as children in Westwood.

[For that to happen, South L.A. needs more great options like Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School, an L.A. Unified high school where 98% of students graduate.](#) Because of such success, families flock to apply to the school, and the waiting list is long every year, which means some families aren't able to get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to help "re-create" Diego Rivera at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The new school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.



University Pathways Public Service Academy will be led by Amen Rahh, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and spent his whole educational career working there because he cares passionately about the area and making sure children have every opportunity to succeed.

Making University Pathways Public Service Academy took almost two years of planning and collaboration, and now that the doors are about to open, we're thankful we had such strong partners throughout. When we visited the campuses recently, we saw how excited the students were about their new school, which made all the planning and hard work worth it.

We believe this will be the first of many collaborations between GPSN and L.A. Unified and, more importantly, the start of a new school that will give generations of South L.A. students a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



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Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: Building a "One City, All Kids" Coalition
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:16:18 AM

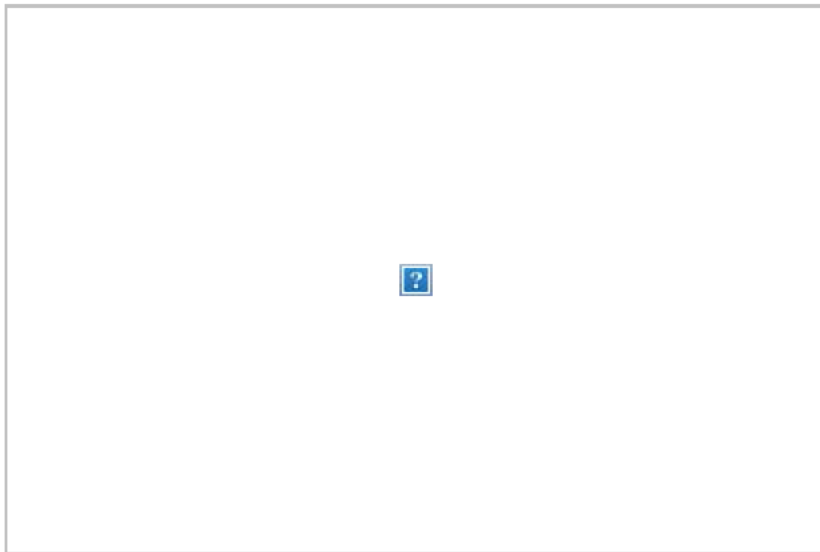
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member McKenna --

Making sure that all students in Los Angeles have access to a high-quality education will take a unified community of educators, parents, and leaders who recognize that kids must come first. That's why GPSN was so excited to convene a historic meeting with new L.A. Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, school board members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin, and more than 250 parents from across the city late last month.

Parents were able to tell the new superintendent their hopes for more great teachers, better facilities, and equitable funding. And Beutner, shown below with some parents and educators who attended the meeting, made it clear that he heard their concerns and that improving L.A. Unified will take strong and open dialogue.



We know this is the beginning of a journey that will lead to a “One City, All Kids” plan that ensures greater educational equity across Los Angeles. The meeting marked the first time that so many education advocacy groups, representing all types of public schools, including charters, magnets and traditional campuses, met with Beutner to advocate for their common interests. GPSN believes more collaborations like this will lead to great things for students and families.

Thanks to groups including Parent Revolution, Speak UP, United Parents and Students, CCSA Families, Families in Schools, Alliance for a Better Community, Innercity Struggle, and Promesa Boyle Heights for all their hard work in making the meeting possible.

-- Great Public Schools Now



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Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: GPSN helping teachers make LA home
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018 12:21:02 PM

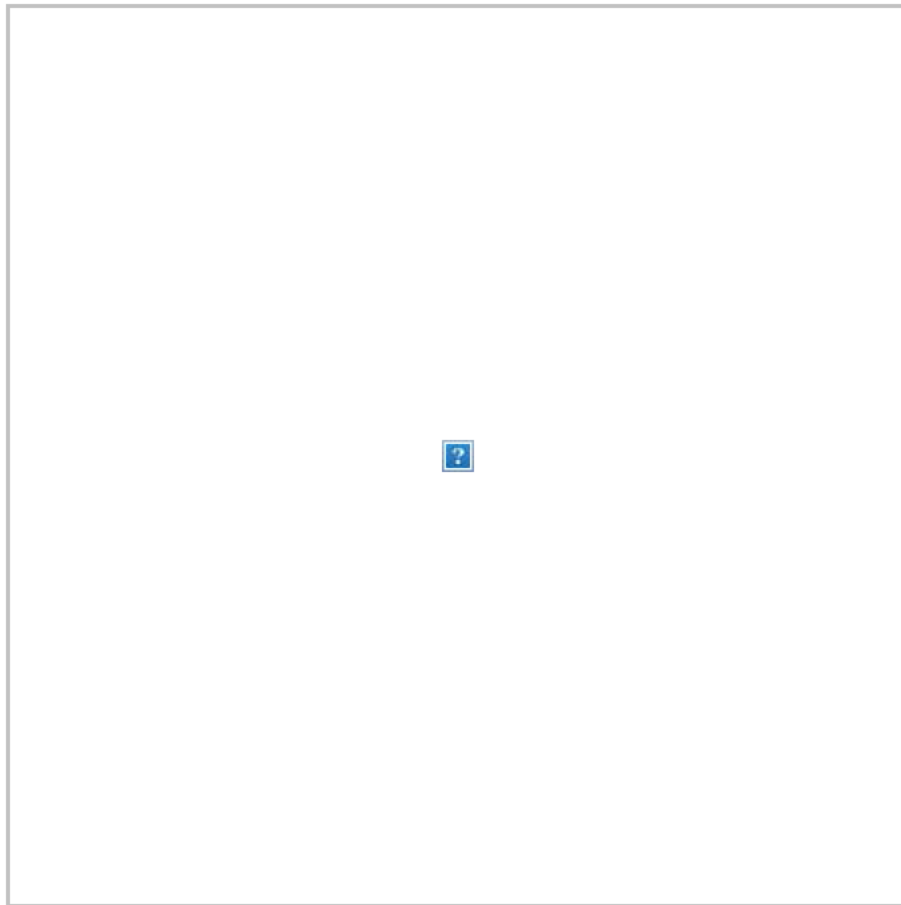
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member McKenna --

So much of great education is making sure that teachers can do their best work in the classroom by giving them a fun but challenging work environment, freeing them from as much bureaucracy as possible, and sometimes even making sure they feel at home in a new city.

To make help some new KIPP LA teachers adjust to life in L.A., GPSN funded a program that gave new hires access to an apartment rental search engine as well as relocation support that helped KIPP LA attract the best and brightest teachers. **Click below to watch our video and learn more.**



The bonuses and apartment search helped bring Shahara Tiatia, a talented Latina math teacher who was living in Ireland, to her “dream city” of L.A. Shahara found an apartment within 30 minutes of work, a new favorite pupusa restaurant in her neighborhood, and a growing sense of becoming an Angeleno.

We know L.A. can sometimes seem intimidating from the outside, so we’re delighted to see KIPP LA do everything it can to help their new hires. GPSN is also looking forward to seeing young educators like Shahara put down roots in L.A. and grow as educators and leaders.

[To learn more about Shahara and how GPSN and KIPP LA are working to bring more great teachers to LA, check out the video here.](#)

-- *Great Public Schools Now*

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: News from Great Public Schools Now
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:51:12 PM

Great Public Schools Now



Hello:

We hope the start of your school year has gone great. Ours has been fantastic. Like all of you, we had a busy summer, and we're excited about some of our big projects that are coming up this fall. Here's what we've been up to:

Last Town Hall of 2017

We held our fifth and final 2017 town hall in the Pico-Union neighborhood this August, which capped off nearly a year of GPSN events. We held town halls in the northeast San Fernando Valley, South L.A., East L.A., Southeast L.A. and Pico-Union, speaking with thousands of people about Great Public Schools Now's work and mission. We believe that community members are an invaluable resource for educators. Families know what's working for them and what their neighborhoods need from schools, and GPSN is excited to hold more public events in the near future. Stay tuned for more details.

Poll

To make sure that we are getting an accurate understanding of what students need, GPSN conducted a poll this summer with Tulchin Research to gauge public opinion on education. You can see read the press release [here](#), but we found that the community supports doing more of what works. Voters, and parents in particular, want to see more high-quality public schools of all kinds, including charter and L.A. Unified schools. The public also overwhelmingly feels that educational politics have become too overheated, something GPSN also agrees with. It's time to put students first and improve education across Los Angeles.

Univision Fair

Even though we don't have any more town halls planned, GPSN will be doing at least one more public event: the Univision Education Fair on Sept. 23 at Cal State Northridge. We'll

have a booth and will be doing two presentations that day. One will be with Parent Revolution called “Education 101,” where we will explain educational options at both traditional district schools and charters. The other will feature members of Students For Education Reform, who will explain how to best choose a college, major and even career.

We hope to see you there!

Great Public Schools Now

<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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You can also keep up with Great Public Schools Now on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: June 2017 Newsletter
Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 3:50:42 PM



June 5, 2017

Dear parents and community members,

Education is a team effort. And if Great Public Schools Now is going to reach our goal of making sure that every student in Los Angeles has a chance at a great education, we'll need a lot of partners. That's why we've worked with organizations across the educational landscape, from charters to teacher training programs, after-school organizations and parents.

One of our key partners is L.A. Unified, the nation's second-largest school district, which was why we were so excited to announce a \$1.5-million grant to L.A. Unified's Local District South earlier this spring. The money will go towards replicating education practices at two of the local district's best-performing schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science.

L.A. Unified administrators will spend the first year of the grant identifying the right replication sites and the best person to lead the team at the new campus. The campuses will open in the fall of 2018 and will add about 1,000 students over three years.

We've been working on the school replication grants with L.A. Unified administrators for months and feel the grants represent a great step forward in our relationship and for the future of Los Angeles. District officials will keep us informed about how the grants develop, and we look forward to finding new ways to work with them.

This [news release](#) contains more information about the grant program.

¡Escuelas Públicas de Calidad Ya!

To reach our goals, GPSN also needs to reach as wide an audience as possible. So we've started a Spanish-language [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages that we believe will help us reach more people. Give us a like or a follow and keep up with all GPSN news in real time and learn about the latest happenings in the world of education.

Celebrating Our Work With Teach For America, Los Angeles

The GPSN team attended the Teach For America, Los Angeles benefit dinner last month, where GPSN received the Regional Changemaker award. We're honored by the recognition and inspired by the work TFA does. We gave them \$2 million last spring, and they turned that into 130 new corps members by the fall who are working throughout the city to inspire students. Check out the videos we produced highlighting the work of two first-year teachers, [Joshua Rushing](#) at Manual Arts High School, and [Jose Bahena](#) at 42nd Street Elementary.

Town Hall News

Our East Los Angeles Town Hall earlier this month was our best yet, with nearly 300 people attending. There was a lively discussion led by our executive director, Myrna Castrejón, and attendees also were able to speak with L.A. Unified board member Mónica García to share their hopes and concerns about education in their neighborhood. We are proud to be working with the many community members who said that they need more great schools. For a quick summary of the event, check out this Univision news [video](#).

As always, thanks for your support. Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: March Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:29:48 PM



GPSNgreenlogo.png



March 1, 2017

Hello Board Member McKenna --

Great teachers are at the heart of every outstanding public school. They use different methods and have different personalities, but they all know how to inspire their students to meet new challenges. When one great teacher leaves the classroom early because they didn't get the proper support, it's a tragedy for the school and the community.

That's why Great Public Schools Now awarded nearly \$900,000 to six educational organizations and schools to fund programs that will provide their best teachers more training, improve work-life balance, and offer financial incentives for additional professional development.

The grants should help about 150 amazing educators stay in their classrooms for as long as they want to. That means thousands of children will continue to get great educations and future generations of teachers will have mentors to help them become the best educators they can be.

With the hope of replicating the best parts of each project throughout the city, the GPSN team will closely monitor the progress of each program because all students deserve a great teacher.

Check out the news release and other information about the grants at our [website](#).

New look!

When you see the teacher retention news release, you'll notice that we have refreshed the site. We think it's more user-friendly and highlights the work we've done with partners across Los Angeles, especially since each project has its own space under the "Our Work" tab. We made sure to leave plenty of room for future work, and we think the website will grow along with GPSN.

Next Town Hall!

We'll be holding out next Town Hall on April 22nd at the SteelWorkers OldTimers Foundation at 3355 E. Gage Ave. in Huntington Park. We'll have more details soon and hope to see you there!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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You can also keep up with Great Public Schools Now on [Twitter](#).

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From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: November 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:57:04 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Nov. 30, 2016

Hello Board Member McKenna --

The main goal of Great Public Schools Now has always been to give the nearly 140,000 students enrolled in low-performing Los Angeles-area public schools a chance at a great education. To achieve this ambitious objective, GPSN has been developing partnerships across the educational landscape, including with L.A. Unified.

We're proud to say that our collaboration with the nation's second largest school district is producing results. After months of working with L.A. Unified officials, GPSN awarded a grant to plan replication of successful educational practices at a pair of South L.A. schools: Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service and King-Drew Senior High Medicine & Science Magnet.

Diego Rivera and King-Drew are two of South L.A.'s best performing campuses, and we're confident they will submit innovative grant proposals to continue their great work.

The grants are part of GPSN's commitment to spend up to \$3.75 million to replicate high-quality L.A. Unified schools and we hope that even more campuses will apply for the final grants later this year. Winners will be announced by April, so stay tuned for more news.

South L.A. Town Hall!

We're holding our second town hall on December 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Watts Labor Community Action center. Our first, in the Northeast San Fernando Valley in October, attracted more than 130 people who gave us valuable feedback on what they want to see from their education system.

In addition to roundtable discussions and a Q&A, we're also holding a resource fair as well as providing complimentary day care and lunch.

Help us spread the word by sharing the [Facebook](#) event page or signing up to attend [here](#).

And now we're seven...

Operations Manager **Jardine Monteil** has joined the GPSN team. Jardine has extensive experience working with nonprofit organizations and was most recently the controller for the Foothill Unity Center. With Jardine's addition, Great Public Schools Now is fully staffed with seven employees, and we look forward to producing more great work in the coming year.

Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

This email was sent to george.mckenna@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#)
Cc: [Del Cueto, Linda](#); [Downing, Christopher](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Elam, Nicole](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Planning Grant Applications
Date: Monday, October 31, 2016 5:38:48 PM

Dear Superintendent King:

I am confirming receipt of the proposals and look forward to reviewing them. Further, we look forward to continuing our preparations for the full RFP and a successful funding cycle for 2017.

We thank you for your engagement in this effort.

Sincerely,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 31, 2016, at 4:31 PM, King, Michelle Superintendent <michelle.king@lausd.net> wrote:

Good Afternoon Ms. Castrejon,
Please find attached 3 proposals for planning grant consideration with relevant resumes. Each plan has the school name, primary contact information, GPSN Focus Region and current school address included. Please connect with the appropriate Local District Superintendent for schools if further information is required.

Thank you,

Michelle King, Superintendent
Office of the Superintendent

<image001.png>	213-241-7000	<image004.png>	michelle.king@lausd.net	<image007.png>
<image002.png>	213-241-8442	<image005.png>	www.lausd.net	
<image003.png>	333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor			

[<image009.jpg>](#) [<image011.jpg>](#) [<image013.png>](#) [<image015.jpg>](#)

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<image016.png> Please consider your environmental responsibility. Before printing this e-mail message, ask yourself whether you really need a hard copy.

<San Fernando GPS_FINAL PROPOSAL_10-28-2016.pdf>

[REDACTED] >

[REDACTED] >

[REDACTED]

<GPSN Proposal LD South_10 28 16.docx>

[REDACTED]

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: October 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:08:22 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Oct. 19, 2016

Hello Board Member McKenna --

Since our launch in June 2016, Great Public Schools Now has been hard at work sharpening our strategic areas of focus supporting great schools and educational programs across Los Angeles. One of our key goals is to catalyze a conversation among Angelenos about how best to increase high quality options for all kids, particularly for children in the highest areas of need across our great city. We thank you for joining our outreach list and for your support of our mission and look forward to being in regular contact with you. We will be sending monthly updates in this community newsletter to stay connected with you about what we see as bright spots and challenges to improve education and how we continue to shape our work.

Inaugural Collaboration with L.A. Unified

After working with Los Angeles Unified School District officials for several months, we were thrilled to announce our agreement to fund up to \$3.75 million to expand up to five high-performing schools. The campuses will be chosen by our board along with a panel of experts both inside and outside the district, and final winners will be announced around April next year.

We think these grants can make a huge difference in the nation's second biggest school district by providing more opportunities for students to go to high-performing schools. And we're excited to be working with L.A. Unified for the first of what we believe will be many partnerships.

For full grant details, check out the [press release](#) and [Request for Proposal](#) on our website. But here are some highlights:

- High-need children:** The schools will all come from areas where 80% of the students don't meet grade level standards. And the campuses must be non-selective and enroll special education students and English language learners at rates similar to district averages.

•**Traditional schools:** This round of grants is only for LA Unified campuses. GPSN will have separate processes and funding to support other educational efforts, including teacher training programs and charter organizations.

Town Halls Coming!

We hope to learn more about the city's educational needs through the school expansion grants and how to improve our process, and anticipate doing even more to replicate great schools in the near future.

It was gratifying to come to this agreement, but we're still looking for new ideas about how to replicate successful schools and are holding two town halls soon. The first will be on Oct. 22nd, when we're looking to hear from northeast San Fernando Valley residents on what their communities need from schools and what they want to see more of. There will also be complimentary day-care and lunch. [Come check out the event!](#) We're following that meeting up with another one in South L.A. at Los Angeles Southwest College on Dec. 10. We'll have more details on that event shortly.

GPSN Founding Team News

In other news, GPSN is now a team of six! Director of Communications **Jason Song**, Director of Talent **Eric DeSobe**, Director of School Growth **Lauren Tate**, Director of Operations **Isabel Acosta**, and Outreach Manager **Cynthia Kanagui**. Jason came from the Los Angeles Times, where he was a reporter for nine years, most of it covering education. Eric was most recently at KIPP LA Schools, where he was the associate director of recruitment. Lauren was most recently the chief of staff with the Achievement School District in Memphis, TN. Isabel, a native Angelena, comes to us from The Broad Foundation. And Cynthia was with IDEA Public Schools in South Texas.

Now that our staffing is almost complete, we anticipate generating more good news to share and will be sending out a newsletter once a month.

As always, feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or at our [Facebook](#) page. See you at the town halls!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Mckenna, George](#)
Cc: [Haber, Shannon](#); [Jason Song](#); [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
Subject: GPSN to Host Community Event This Month
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2016 6:18:27 PM
Attachments: [Pacoima Panorama Town Hall 2016 English Spanish.pdf](#)

Dear Superintendent King and Members of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District,

Great Public Schools Now will be hosting our first outreach event of the year for parents and community members in the Pacoima and Panorama City area on Oct. 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We hope our Town Hall will bring together families to learn more about what they are looking for in high quality schools, and how we can improve access. We hope to host about 300 people and will have a Q&A session and a series of roundtable discussions. The feedback gleaned from this effort to continue to shape our community engagement strategy and funding priorities.

Our Community Outreach and Engagement Manager, Cynthia Kanagui, has been presenting to parents at various schools in the area and is looking forward to any opportunity to connect with Northeast leaders and parents.

We welcome your attendance or participation in this event, and please let us know if you have any questions about this event. We will be hosting similar events throughout the year in each of the areas where GPSN will focus its efforts. We very much look forward to gleaning perspective from Los Angeles families that will continue to help guide our mission.

We have attached a copy of the event flier for your convenience.

All the best,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Cc: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Haber, Shannon](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#); [Jason Song](#)
Subject: RE: Clarification Note
Date: Friday, September 30, 2016 10:07:09 AM

Wow! Awesome!

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: 9/30/16 8:51 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Zimmer, Steven" <szimmer@lausd.net>, "Rodriguez, Ref" <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net>, "Ratliff, Monica" <monica.ratliff@lausd.net>, "Garcia, Monica (Board Member)" <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, "Vladovic, Richard" <richard.vladovic@lausd.net>, "Mckenna, George" <george.mckenna@lausd.net>, "Schmerelson, Scott M." <scott.schmerelson@lausd.net>
Cc: "King, Michelle Superintendent" <michelle.king@lausd.net>, "Haber, Shannon" <shannon.haber@lausd.net>, Glenn Gritzner [REDACTED], Jason Song <jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Subject: Clarification Note

Dear Members of the Board of Education of Los Angeles Unified School District,

Yesterday, Great Public Schools Now was proud to announce something we had long planned, and that this Board played a key role in facilitating - [up to \\$3.75 million in funds to expand or replicate high performing LAUSD schools](#). This is a part of our ongoing commitment to promoting quality education around Los Angeles, without getting bogged down in the politics around school governance.

As our announcement made clear, and as Superintendent King may have told you, these funds are exclusively for LAUSD-governed schools. There is no competition with charters for the same dollars. I was surprised to see a headline in the print edition of the Los Angeles Times this morning that seemed to indicate otherwise, and I wanted to email you to clear up any confusion.

Once again, this money, up to \$3.75 million, is only for the replication of LAUSD-governed schools.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your support and assistance.

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Cc: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Haber, Shannon](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#); [Jason Song](#)
Subject: Clarification Note
Date: Friday, September 30, 2016 8:51:37 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Education of Los Angeles Unified School District,

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Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your support and assistance.

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#)
Subject: GPSN: Launch & Other News
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016 3:12:40 PM

Dear Board Member McKenna,

It has been an exciting four months at Great Public Schools Now leading up to the successful launch of our initiative on June 16, 2016. We are energized and grateful for the positive response our efforts generated across the community, and how many of you across Los Angeles are ready to join us to make sure every child in LA has access to a high quality public school education! You affirmed our belief that parents, families, and community members believe like we do that every child in Los Angeles deserves that chance, because the future of our city depends on it.

One of the key documents that resulted from the launch was a new plan outlining the core areas of our work: deep and authentic community engagement, strengthening teachers and leaders, providing support for adequate facilities, and most importantly, the replication of high quality public schools. We have prioritized 10 Los Angeles neighborhoods where we will begin investing our time, resources, and innovative thinking. Please follow this [link](#) for more information on these focal regions as well as our updated launch plan.

Since the launch, we have focused on opening avenues of collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and engaging in meaningful dialogue with Superintendent Michelle King. We are in the process of partnering with community groups and local funders to garner additional support for our effort. Lastly, we made a few key investments as demonstration grants that point the way to the kind of support we will provide, as many organizations across Los Angeles align with our vision and mission to build and replicate quality schools.

Thank you for your support of Great Public Schools Now! We need to hear directly from you how we can make a greater impact, and we plan to host two Town Halls this fall and three Town Halls in the spring of 2017. Your feedback, input, and attendance is extremely important to us and is absolutely critical in shaping the direction of our organization.

Stay tuned for more details about the upcoming town halls via our website and through social media in the next few weeks. Please stay informed by visiting our main page at [Greatpublicschoolsnow.org](http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org) and our Facebook page @GreatPublicSchoolsNow!

Adelante!

Myrna

Myrna Castrejon
<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

--==--

Great Public Schools Now - United States

This email was sent to george.mckenna@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

--==--

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Launch - Next Steps
Date: Friday, July 8, 2016 3:14:07 PM

Honorable Members of the School Board of LAUSD,

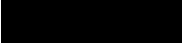
I was proud to stand at HOLA recently and, with other educational advocates and activists, announce the official launch of Great Public Schools Now. As you [may have heard](#), our first set of announced 'demonstration' grants will benefit students in district schools as well as those in charters in some of the region's most struggling neighborhoods.

Now that we've launched, I'd love to come brief you on our thinking and hear your thoughts and priorities for where we go from here. The goal of Great Public Schools Now is to help as many students as possible – a goal I know we all share.

I look forward to meeting with you soon, and to discussing this important work in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#); [Robinson, Sharon V.](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Aguas, Jenny](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Irlando, Arlene](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); Refugio.rodriquez@lausd.net; [Aman, Aixle](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Torres, Chris](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Vizcarra, Claudia](#)
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:06:18 PM

Dear Honorable Members of the LAUSD School Board:

Over the last few months, we have met with over 50 leaders and community organizations to develop a plan to help improve outcomes for students in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles. I'm reaching out to you to let you know, before it becomes public, that this effort, Great Public Schools Now, will be officially launching this Thursday, with articles coming out Wednesday ahead of the official launch. We all share one goal - making sure that the children of LAUSD get the best education possible, and leave school ready to succeed in the world.

The idea behind GPSN is to work to improve facilities, give support to teachers, expand community engagement, and replicate effective schools whether charter, pilot, magnet, or traditional district school efforts. Once the launch takes place, the full plan will be available on our website.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference for the children of Los Angeles - and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Helping families simplify the charter application process
Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:49:38 PM

Great Public Schools Now



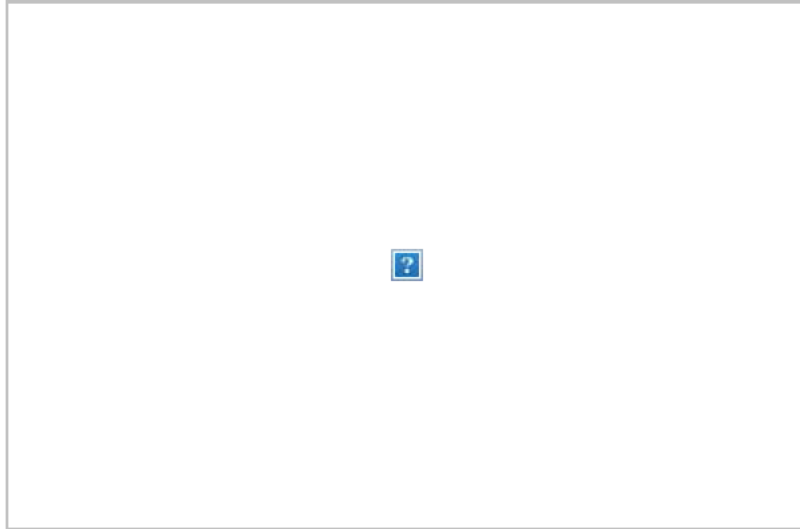
nick --

For years Los Angeles families have faced a very complicated and disconnected set of applications to find and enroll in great public schools. Each school can have its own requirements, platform, and deadlines, so filling out the paperwork and keeping track of it all can be confusing and even overwhelming for families.

In fact, when GPSN held a series of public events last year to hear from parents about how public education can be improved, many attendees said the current enrollment process wasn't working and that communities needed a more family friendly charter application process.

That's why GPSN launched a single, common-sense application system – [ApplyLA](#) – last week. With ApplyLA, families fill out one application and apply to as many schools as they want in as little as five minutes. The site is off to a great start, with more than **900 applications** already received, and we anticipate that number will grow as more parents spread the word about the site.

For a quick overview on how ApplyLA works, click the video below.



In addition to allowing families to apply to multiple schools with a single application, ApplyLA also:

- Includes about 10% of LA's charter schools. The site currently has [31 schools](#), and we expect that number to grow.
- Is an especially important complement to L.A. Unified's Unified Enrollment system, which does not currently include independent charter schools.
- Allows families to track their applications in English, Spanish and Korean on a mobile-friendly platform. Families can log on at any time to see the status of their applications, apply to more schools, and accept offers in a single system.

GPSN spent the past year working with Parent Revolution and other partners to create ApplyLA, and participating schools include Aspire Public Schools, Bright Star Schools, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, CHIME, Citizens of the World, City Charter, Collegiate Charter High School, Ednovate Charter Schools, Equitas Academy Charter Schools, Green Dot Public Schools, KIPP LA Public Schools, and Para Los Niños.

Great Public Schools Now

From: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Myrna Castrejon](#); carrie@schoolboardpartners.org; [Reza, Sonia](#); [Patron, Lizette](#); [Angel, Sarah](#); [Lombard, Adriana](#)
Subject: Re: Connection
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:47:20 AM

Thanks, Myrna, for that kind introduction! I'm also very interested, but likely committed on 10/1 and 10/2 with a looming strike and Board meetings. But Monica and I can discuss next week. Definitely interested in future opportunities if this first one doesn't work. Thank you all!

N

Nick Melvoin

LA Unified Board of Education
Vice President | District 4
[Check out our 2017-18 Year in Review!](#)

On Aug 30, 2018, at 6:27 PM, García, Mónica (Board Member)
<monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Thank you!
Hello! I am interested but am committed Oct 1 & 2.

Please let me know of next opportunity.

Monica

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 30, 2018, at 10:15 AM, Myrna Castrejon
<mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Carrie,
Please meet LAUSD Board President Monica Garcia and VP Nick Melvoin! I forwarded your kind invitation for your initial cohort and they are both interested, yet incredibly pressured this fall as a potential teacher strike looms and the school year gets underway with a new Superintendent. They are both bold and courageous leaders leading our city to make the bold choices required to help our children reach their full potential. I leave you all to see if schedules allow for participation. I am excited for your work ahead connecting leaders like Monica and Nick with other courageous leaders across the nation to find common ground, support and new ideas.

All the best,

Myrna Castrejón

Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

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To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Myrna Castrejon](#); carrie@schoolboardpartners.org; [Reza, Sonia](#); [Patron, Lizette](#); [Angel, Sarah](#); [Lombard, Adriana](#)
Subject: Re: Connection
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:44:59 AM

Thanks, Myrna, for that kind introduction! I'm also very interested, but likely committed on 10/1 and 10/2 with a looming strike and Board meetings. But Monica and I can discuss next week. Definitely interested in future opportunities if this first one doesn't work. Thank you all!

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Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Myrna Castrejon](#); carrie@schoolboardpartners.org; [Reza, Sonia](#); [Patron, Lizette](#); [Angel, Sarah](#); [Lombard, Adriana](#)
Subject: Re: Connection
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:44:29 AM

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N

Nick Melvoin

LA Unified Board of Education
Vice President | District 4
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All the best,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director

Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: carrie@schoolboardpartners.org
Cc: [Garcia, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#); [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Connection
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:15:14 AM

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Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Melvoin, Nick](#); [Angel, Sarah](#); [Isabel Acosta](#)
Subject: Re: School Board Partners is launching!
Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:00:48 AM

I'll connect you both to Carrie tomorrow directly!

M

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 11:57 PM, García, Mónica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

I am interested as well. I cannot make the first mtg as my Pahara group is meeting that week.

Should we reach out to Carrie?

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting our movement towards 100% graduation.

On Aug 28, 2018, at 11:24 PM, Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET> wrote:

Hi! Thanks for this. I'm definitely interested. The timing may be tough with a strike and a Board step-back, but would love to learn more. Appreciate a connection!

N

Nick Melvoin

LAUSD Board of Education
District 4 | [Website](#)

On Aug 23, 2018, at 2:10 PM, Myrna Castrejon
<mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Friends,

I am forwarding a networking and support opportunity that one of our partners is launching to advance the work of quality and equity in urban districts. School Board Partners is a new, spin off organization of the former Education Cities network, of which GPSN is a member. As you can

see from Carrie's description, their aim is create a Board-level community of practice and make available resources and support for participating members on site and remote. This is at NO cost to participating Board members. If this is of interest to you, the initial cohort will launch October 1-3 in Denver. Let me know if I can connect you more directly. See the general description below, and the link to the live page that explains their work in more detail. I hope you find this helpful!

Myrna

I'm pleased to let you know that School Board Partners has secured our first large multi-year grant, allowing us to move forward with our plans to connect, inspire and support diverse school board members in selected cities across the country.

For year 1, our list of priority cities is: Atlanta, Baton Rouge, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, **Los Angeles**, Memphis, New Orleans, Oakland, San Antonio and Stockton.

In each of these cities, we plan to support 1-3 school board members by providing these three sets of supports:

1. **A national community** of diverse school board members who are working to lead bold change in their respective communities. The network will meet annually in person and communicate virtually throughout the year as needed. Members of the network will learn together and support each other, as well as benefit from the support and resources of the team at School Board Partners.
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I believe we would be targeting Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin for inclusion in the first cohort.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts or questions before reaching out to them.

Thank you for your support of this important work!
Carrie

LINK:

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/r05wRprPcef99/>

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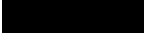
Carrie McPherson Douglass
Founder and CEO

School Board Partners

Connecting, inspiring and supporting school board members to be bold leaders for change in their community

Schedule a meeting with me [here](#)
Connect with me on [LinkedIn](#)

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Cc: [Angel, Sarah](#); [Garcia, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#); [Isabel Acosta](#)
Subject: Re: School Board Partners is launching!
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 11:24:27 PM

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N

Nick Melvoin

LAUSD Board of Education
District 4 | [Website](#)

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LINK:
<https://spark.adobe.com/page/r05wRprPcef99/>

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Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



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To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Cc: [Angel, Sarah](#); [García, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#); [Isabel Acosta](#)
Subject: Re: School Board Partners is launching!
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 11:06:11 PM

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Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Angel, Sarah](#)
To: [Eric DeSobe](#)
Subject: Re: FYI ... almost there
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:46:48 PM

Great. Thank you so much for the update and all of your work to make this happen. I know it hasn't been easy.



Sarah B. Angel
Chief of Staff
Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin
w. 213.241.6387 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)



On Aug 14, 2018, at 2:30 PM, Eric DeSobe <edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Hey, happy first day of school.

Quick update ... we're now finalizing award letters and grant terms and hope to send those via mail and DocuSign programs to sites (and LDW) soon. Thank you for your patience. We can't wait to see all projects come together.

I am out of the country from 8/15-8/25 so please contact our Director of Operations Isabel Acosta if any questions arise (I'll also be peeking at email so feel free to email me if anything bananas happens). She can be reached at: iacosta@greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Thank you again!

-Eric

--

Eric DeSobe
Director of Talent
Great Public Schools Now
office: [REDACTED]
@GreatSchoolsLA

Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GreatPublicSchoolsNow/>

From: [Angel, Sarah](#)
To: [Dobson, Brenda](#)
Cc: [Eric DeSobe](#)
Subject: RE: LD West Co-Location Summit Grant Funds
Date: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 11:25:28 AM

Hi Brenda,

I am back from my family vacation and wanted to thank you for your help on this. We are excited for our schools to be able to benefit from these grants.

Do you know when you are supposed to hear back from Budget? And, who are you working with in that department?

We want to ensure this happens as expeditiously as possible to start the year off right.

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah B. Angel
Chief of Staff | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin
213-241-6387 | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Dobson, Brenda
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 11:00 PM
To: Eric DeSobe <edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Cc: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>
Subject: Re: LD West Co-Location Summit Grant Funds

You're welcome.

Unfortunately, I cannot speak for Budget. However, I will update you with any information I'm authorized to share next week.

Sincerely,

Brenda Dobson
Fiscal Services Manager
Local District West

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 2, 2018, at 3:41 PM, Eric DeSobe <edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Thank you.

Do you anticipate that update being the green light to move forward or that there will be next steps following that?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 2, 2018, at 2:47 PM, Dobson, Brenda <brenda.dobson@lausd.net> wrote:

Hi Eric:

I'm in the process of reviewing and summarizing the data. Thereafter, I will confer with Budget.

May I provide you with a status update next week?

Brenda Dobson
Fiscal Services Manager
Local District West


School Fiscal Services is dedicated to providing excellent customer service. Let us know about your experience by clicking on the link below and completing our Customer Service Survey.
<[image001.png](#)>

To learn more about the District's budget situation, please visit <http://achieve.lausd.net/budget>

From: Eric DeSobe [<mailto:edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>]

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 2:16 PM

To: Dobson, Brenda <brenda.dobson@lausd.net>

Subject: Re: LD West Co-Location Summit Grant Funds

Afternoon Brenda, hope all is well. Were these documents what you needed to keep us moving forward? After conferring with our team we'd be agreeable to cutting checks directly to LAUSD host school in these co-locating situations. Would that be the easiest path for us to pursue?

Thanks so much for help on this. Can't wait to help these sites implement their important proposals.

-Eric

On Wed, Aug 1, 2018 at 9:31 AM, Eric DeSobe
<edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Thanks Brenda. Attached are our *draft* grant terms for the four co-locating sites we approved for funding. Our main question is how

checks should be cut to the sites since there are multiple schools involved.

I've also included the original proposals submitted by the sites too.

On Wed, Aug 1, 2018 at 9:15 AM, Dobson, Brenda
<brenda.dobson@lausd.net> wrote:

Good morning Eric:

Could you please forward details about the grant so that these can be reviewed? Specifically, a grant proposal which identifies the amount, schools involved, language and/or conditions and term(s) will be helpful.

Thereafter, I can confer with Budget Services regarding acceptance.

Thank you,

Brenda Dobson
Fiscal Services Manager
Local District West


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[<image001.png>](#)

To learn more about the District's budget situation, please visit <http://achieve.lausd.net/budget>

From: Eric DeSobe [mailto:edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org]

Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 9:11 AM

To: McCoy, RaDaniel <radaniel.mccoy@lausd.net>

Cc: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>; Dobson, Brenda
<brenda.dobson@lausd.net>

Subject: Re: LD West Co-Location Summit Grant Funds

Morning everyone. Circling back on message below as we need details on most efficient and effective way to disburse our grant funds to the participating co-locating school sites. This a timely matter as several proposals involve beginning of year activities. Please let me know the best way to to create our grant terms and award letters as soon as possible.

Thank you.

-Eric

On Mon, Jul 30, 2018 at 7:31 AM, Eric DeSobe
<edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Thanks so much.

Looking forward to hearing the best way to proceed.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 27, 2018, at 10:19 PM, McCoy, RaDaniel
<radaniel.mccoy@lausd.net> wrote:

Hello Ms. Dobson,

I am emailing to virtually introduce you to Sarah Angel, Board District 4 Chief of Staff and Eric DeSobe from Great Public Schools Now. As previously mentioned, there are Co-Location Summit Grant Funds that need to be distributed to some schools in Local District West and there are several parameters and intricacies that need to be considered. This connection is essential because Ms. Dobson has the expertise and resources to ensure that the grant funds are allocated and distributed properly according to district policy.

That being said, Brenda please virtually meet Eric and Sarah. Sarah and Eric, please virtually meet Brenda Dobson, Local District West Fiscal Manager.

Thanks in advance for your collaboration and the work being done for the students and families in Local District West and LAUSD as a whole.

Kind Regards,

Ra'Daniel McCoy
Administrator of Operations

Local District West
[11380 W. Graham Place](#)
[Los Angeles, California 90064](#)
P [REDACTED] | F 310.479.7269

Local District West - We work with school communities to:
Build Capacity, Cultivate School Cultures, and
Eliminate Inequities

--

Eric DeSobe
Director of Talent
Great Public Schools Now
office: [REDACTED]
@GreatSchoolsLA

Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GreatPublicSchoolsNow/>

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Eric DeSobe
Director of Talent
Great Public Schools Now
office [REDACTED]
@GreatSchoolsLA

Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GreatPublicSchoolsNow/>

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Bringing More Great Schools to South LA
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 10:48:57 AM

Great Public Schools Now



nick --

The first day of school is approaching, and we're very excited to see students arriving at two new L.A. Unified schools: University Pathways Public Service Academy and University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy.

The schools are the result of years of collaboration with L.A. Unified to find creative ways to replicate high-quality campuses. Using a \$1.5 million GPSN grant, the campuses "recreate" two of South L.A.'s most popular and accomplished schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science. Both of those schools have long waiting lists and cannot accept every student who wants to attend. The new campuses should ensure that fewer families are disappointed.

[To learn more about our work and the students who will be attending the new campuses, check out this ABC 7 story.](#)



We're delighted that GPSN was able to work with L.A. Unified and believe these are the first of many collaborations to make sure that all students in our city get a great education.

[Click here to watch ABC 7's spotlight story and learn more.](#)

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to nick.melvoin@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

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From: [Eric DeSobe](#)
To: [Angel, Sarah](#)
Cc: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Re: Checking in on co-location grants: action requested
Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 1:46:49 PM

Great. Once we have that info from Hildreth we can begin drafting award letters and grant terms.

Thanks again team. Excited to see these projects come together.

On Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 4:35 PM, Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net> wrote:

Yes. Totally fine with us.

I will reach out to Hildreth today to see about how we can arrange the actual funding.

Thanks so much!

Sarah B. Angel

Chief of Staff | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin

213-241-6387 | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Eric DeSobe [mailto:edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org]

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 11:04 AM

To: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>

Subject: Re: Checking in on co-location grants: action requested

Morning, we are prepared today to send email to four sites with approved proposals letting them know that we will fund their request. Just wanted to double check you're cool for us to start that process while we finalize the award letter/grant term sign logistics. Let me know!

-Eric

On Tue, Jul 24, 2018 at 11:21 AM, Eric DeSobe <edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Great. I'll send that email to the Webster/Magnolia/CWC team this morning. If you can ping Dr. Hildreth with funds question (our preference is always awarding funds to schools directly) that would be awesome.

Thanks as always. I know this week will be hectic (aren't they are) with the Ref news. Appreciate you!

-Eric

On Mon, Jul 23, 2018 at 9:10 PM, Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net> wrote:

Great to have you respond to them in email with me copied. But, happy to defer to you on process.

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Thank you so much; we are so thrilled about this!

Sarah B. Angel

Chief of Staff | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin

213-241-6387 | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Eric DeSobe [mailto:edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org]

Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 6:03 PM

To: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>

Subject: Re: Checking in on co-location grants: action requested

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Thanks for sending.

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We also will need Allison to look into whether we have any potential matching funds; it's unclear to us how else they will find funds.

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How does that sound?

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213-241-6387 | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Eric DeSobe [mailto:edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org]

Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 1:58 PM

To: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>

Subject: Checking in on co-location grants: action requested

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Great Public Schools Now

office 

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To: [Eric DeSobe](#)
Cc: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: RE: Checking in on co-location grants: action requested
Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 1:35:02 PM

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To: [Eric DeSobe](#)
Subject: RE: Checking in on co-location grants: action requested
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 6:11:01 PM

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--

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From: [Angel, Sarah](#)
To: [Eric DeSobe](#)
Subject: RE: Checking in on co-location grants: action requested
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 5:59:33 PM

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Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 1:58 PM
To: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>
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Eric DeSobe
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office: [REDACTED]
@GreatSchoolsLA

Like us on Facebook:

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From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: New Medical Magnet Opening in South L.A.!
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:41:18 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



nick --

Parents want their children to have every chance to be successful. That's why the waiting list at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, the only L.A. Unified campus in South L.A. designed to help students become medical professionals, always has a long waiting list and why families are always disappointed when their children don't get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to "re-create" King/Drew at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The "re-created" school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.

MedicalNewsLetterGraphic.png

University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy will be led by Dorothy Cotton-Kindred, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and lives there because she believes that more South L.A. students should be doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

So do we. And we plan on continuing to collaborate with L.A. Unified to make sure that more students in South L.A. and throughout the city have a chance at a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



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Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Recreating Diego Rivera Public Service This Fall!
Date: Friday, July 13, 2018 12:08:02 PM

Great Public Schools Now



nick --

Great Public Schools Now's goal is educational equality for all children in our city. That means students in South L.A. should have the same chance at success as children in Westwood.

[For that to happen, South L.A. needs more great options like Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School, an L.A. Unified high school where 98% of students graduate.](#) Because of such success, families flock to apply to the school, and the waiting list is long every year, which means some families aren't able to get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to help "re-create" Diego Rivera at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The new school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.



University Pathways Public Service Academy will be led by Amen Rahh, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and spent his whole educational career working there because he cares passionately about the area and making sure children have every opportunity to succeed.

Making University Pathways Public Service Academy took almost two years of planning and collaboration, and now that the doors are about to open, we're thankful we had such strong partners throughout. When we visited the campuses recently, we saw how excited the students were about their new school, which made all the planning and hard work worth it.

We believe this will be the first of many collaborations between GPSN and L.A. Unified and, more importantly, the start of a new school that will give generations of South L.A. students a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to nick.melvoin@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Building a "One City, All Kids" Coalition
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:16:34 AM

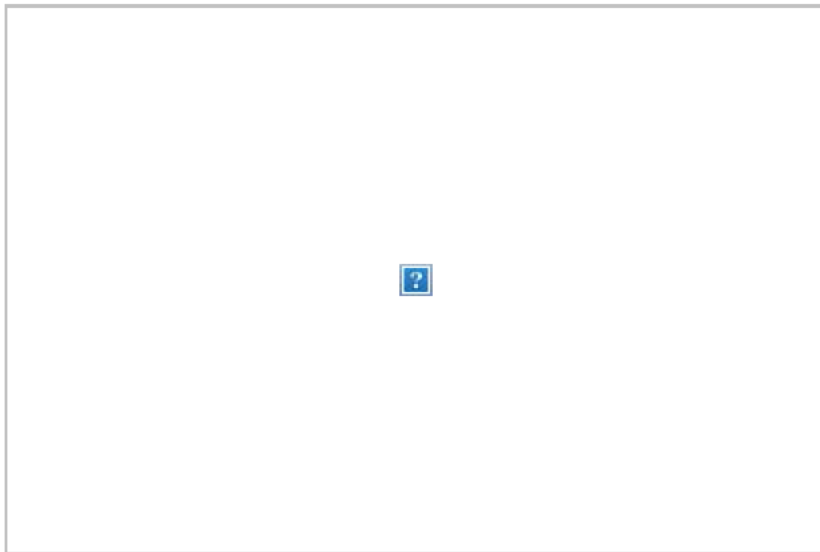
Great Public Schools Now



nick --

Making sure that all students in Los Angeles have access to a high-quality education will take a unified community of educators, parents, and leaders who recognize that kids must come first. That's why GPSN was so excited to convene a historic meeting with new L.A. Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, school board members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin, and more than 250 parents from across the city late last month.

Parents were able to tell the new superintendent their hopes for more great teachers, better facilities, and equitable funding. And Beutner, shown below with some parents and educators who attended the meeting, made it clear that he heard their concerns and that improving L.A. Unified will take strong and open dialogue.



We know this is the beginning of a journey that will lead to a “One City, All Kids” plan that ensures greater educational equity across Los Angeles. The meeting marked the first time that so many education advocacy groups, representing all types of public schools, including charters, magnets and traditional campuses, met with Beutner to advocate for their common interests. GPSN believes more collaborations like this will lead to great things for students and families.

Thanks to groups including Parent Revolution, Speak UP, United Parents and Students, CCSA Families, Families in Schools, Alliance for a Better Community, Innercity Struggle, and Promesa Boyle Heights for all their hard work in making the meeting possible.

-- *Great Public Schools Now*



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Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Beutner, Austin](#); [Garcia, Mónica \(Board Member\)](#); [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Thank you, and Photos
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018 11:24:04 AM

Superintendent, Board Members Garcia and Melvoin:

Thank you again for engaging our allied organizations on Wednesday - our parents left the session hopeful, energized and eager to do their part to ensure our LAUnified moves forward toward a vision of #onecityallkids under your leadership. I hope you found the morning inspiring as much as I did, and I know that together, we will accomplish great things for children.

Here's a [dropbox](#) containing photos from the event.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Adelante!

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Cc: [Angel, Sarah](#); [Rosa, Clayton](#)
Subject: Re: Final Agenda for tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 4:22:19 PM

Perfect!! You don't need to key in to get to the 30th floor, provided you use the right elevator bank.

myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



On Tue, Jun 26, 2018 at 4:19 PM, Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@lausd.net> wrote:
Can't wait! I'll be meeting with students in the Green Dot office before, so will just come up from there (so don't look for me at valet) :)

See you tomorrow!

N

Nick Melvoin

LAUSD Board of Education
District 4 | [Website](#)

On Jun 26, 2018, at 4:07 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Superintendent Beutner, Board Members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin,

We are looking forward to hosting tomorrow's event with 250 parents from our advocacy coalition, representing organizations active in traditional, magnet, pilot and independent charter schools across the city. As you can see from the attached agenda, there is a lot of substance to cover, and more than 15 parent speakers, so we will move quickly through an agenda highlighting the experiences of parents and students across challenging policy landscapes. We

know you will be impressed with their leadership, their will to partner with you to help LAUSD meet its promises and challenges to help all students achieve at high levels, and the work they have endeavored to realize, together. We will welcome and introduce you at the top of the meeting, then parents will present the five policy areas of their work, and then we will invite you to offer reactions/comments to the families. Superintendent, we have allocated 10 minutes for your remarks, as families are eager to hear your thoughts on the issues they present, but most importantly, want to express their willingness to partner with you moving forward; Monica & Nick, families want to recognize your Board leadership in working to increase equity, transparency and access for students and would welcome brief remarks from you as well.

The event begins at 11 sharp, on the 30th floor penthouse space of 1150 S. Olive Avenue. Please pull up to valet and we will greet you at the security desk in front and direct you to the express elevators.

We look forward to an energetic and impactful meeting tomorrow!

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



<Welcome Meeting 6.26.18 Final Agenda.docx>

From: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Cc: [Angel, Sarah](#); [Rosa, Clayton](#)
Subject: Re: Final Agenda for tomorrow
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 4:19:32 PM

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Great Public Schools Now

mcastreion@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



<Welcome Meeting 6.26.18 Final Agenda.docx>

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Angel, Sarah](#)
Cc: [Holdorff, Allison](#); [Melvoin, Nick](#); edesobe@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
Subject: Re: Budget - Co-location Summit 180510.xlsx
Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:11:49 PM

Thanks for prepping this; Eric will be point for you on our end. The budget looks reasonably formed with the right buckets!

Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2018, at 5:35 PM, Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net> wrote:

Hi Myrna,

Attached please find the proposed budget for the co-location summit.

The proposed dates are Thursday, June 21 – Friday, June 22.

Allison's looked at several different hotel options as well, and we think that the estimate will cover options from Laguna to Newport Beach.

We've done some additional research on potential speakers as well, and can share that out later.

Can you let us know whether this works for you?

Once we determine the budget, and solidify the date, we will send out a save the date to ask for RSVPs and hire a consultant to develop the programming, logistics, and execution.

Thank you so much. This is going to be great!

Best,
Sarah

<Budget - Co-location Summit 180510.xlsx>

From: [Angel, Sarah](#)
To: [Gardner, Kyle](#); [Lauren Tate](#)
Cc: [Perigo, Mike](#); [Lombard, Adriana](#)
Subject: RE: Introduction
Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 2:58:53 PM

Lauren, thanks for reaching out and making the connection! (For some reason, your email ended up in my junk folder, so apologies for the delay.) Nick and I are appreciative of the leadership that you and GPSN have shown in this important area.

Kyle, thanks for your work on the study. I'm very interested to learn more related to your findings.

I'm also connecting you with Adriana Lombard, who can help find us some time. I think that May 4 may be our best bet, or going into the following week. Apologies for the delay; the superintendent search has been taking up a lot of the oxygen around here for a while.

Best,
Sarah

Sarah B. Angel
Chief of Staff | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin
213-241-6387 | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Gardner, Kyle [<mailto:Kyle.Gardner@bridgespan.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:31 AM
To: Lauren Tate <ltate@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>; Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>
Cc: Perigo, Mike <mike.perigo@bridgespan.org>
Subject: RE: Introduction

Lauren, thank you for the introduction.

Sarah,

It would be wonderful to get your perspective on the feasibility study highlights and opportunities for common enrollment in LA. As starting options to coordinate our calendars, Mike and I have some good pockets of availability this Friday (4/27), 5/1, and 5/4. Does 45 minutes any of those days work well for you (and you too, Lauren)?

Thank you very much.

Best,
Kyle

Kyle Gardner

Manager

The Bridgespan Group

88 Kearny Street, Suite 200 | San Francisco, CA 94108

Phone: 203.954.7151

Kyle.Gardner@bridgespan.org

www.bridgespan.org

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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Lauren Tate [<mailto:ltate@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>]

Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 2:15 PM

To: sarah.angel@lausd.net

Cc: Perigo, Mike <mike.perigo@bridgespan.org>; Gardner, Kyle <Kyle.Gardner@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Introduction

Hi Sarah,

As you know, over the last few months we've been facilitating a charter common enrollment "feasibility study" to understand how to make enrollment more equitable for families in Los Angeles. In light of the commendable efforts of LAUSD to simplify enrollment processes for its directly-operated schools, we launched a process to engage with charter operators to see if there was a parallel path to more simplified and equitable enrollment. Bridgespan has been leading the work, and we'd love to find time to connect with you to provide an update on the study and to more broadly get your perspective on common enrollment in LA.

I've cc'd Mike Perigo and Kyle Gardner of the Bridgespan team. Hopefully we can find a common window to hop on the phone!

Best,

Lauren

--

Lauren Tate

Sr. Director of Strategy & School Growth

Cell: [REDACTED]



Live Webinar

Making School Choice Work: DCSRN's High Quality Schools Campaign

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
12 p.m. PT (3 p.m. ET)

Register Now

Presenters

- **Ashley Jochim**, Senior Research Analyst, Center on Reinventing Public Education
- **Natasha Ettienne**, Parent Advocate, DCSRN
- **David Pickens**, Executive Director, DCSRN

What does it take for school choice to “work”? How do existing tools fall short? What can be done to ensure that all families have access to quality school options? These and other questions will be answered in this webinar, cohosted by the Center on Reinventing Public Education and DC School Reform Now (DCSRN), a District of Columbia-based nonprofit focused on helping underserved families navigate one of the nation’s most expansive public school choice systems.

Like many cities, Washington, D.C., has looked to school choice as one way to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged students. School choice attempts to “level the playing field” between students of different backgrounds by making it possible for all families to have access to a city’s high-quality public schools—whether students live near these schools or not. But school choice requires families to make substantial investments of time and resources into the school choosing process, which can pose barriers to ensuring all families can access quality schooling options.

DCSRN launched the High Quality Schools Campaign (HQSC) in an effort to address the challenges families confront in the process of choosing a school. This highly targeted and high-touch initiative connects parents in the city’s most underserved regions to “parent

advocates” who take parents through the entire enrollment process—from learning about schools (with an emphasis on schools receiving high performance ratings) to completing the application to enrolling their child in school for the fall. The goal of the campaign is to dramatically increase the number of underserved families who actively take advantage of school choice and enroll in the city’s top-rated schools.

Participants will have a chance to learn about the HQSC, including the work of parent advocates, experiences of families, and results to date.

Questions for the presenters? Please send them to Ashley Jochim, at aew9@uw.edu, and we'll answer them during the webinar.

Register Now

Center on Reinventing Public Education

Improving education through transformative,
evidence-based ideas



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[425 Pontius Avenue North Suite 410 | Seattle, WA 98109 US](#)

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--

Ashley Jochim, Research Analyst
[Center on Reinventing Public Education](#)
425 Pontius Ave N Ste 410, Seattle, WA 98109
253.226.7534, aew9@uw.edu



From: [Angel, Sarah](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Cc: [Lombard, Adriana](#)
Subject: RE: Co-location Pilot?
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:17:39 PM

Thanks, Myrna.

I'm looping in Adriana and moving Nick to BCC so we can figure out the exact date/time.

Thanks

Sarah B. Angel
Chief of Staff | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin
213-241-6387 | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Myrna Castrejon [mailto:mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:06 PM
To: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>
Cc: Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>
Subject: Re: Co-location Pilot?

Agree. April 17 works, as does the time, but I do have a hard stop at 4, especially depending on where we meet. I have a 4:15 here that I can't move. Does that work?

myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



On Fri, Mar 16, 2018 at 1:53 PM, Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net> wrote:

Great.

Maybe the first step would be for us to have a meeting to flesh it out a bit, and then we'd want to get the date schedule (if we're moving forward) so the school-based folks can reserve it on their calendars.

Does the morning of April 17 or April 18 at 2:45 work for you? Nick's calendar is packed due to the superintendent search . . .

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah B. Angel
Chief of Staff | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin
[213-241-6387](tel:213-241-6387) | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Myrna Castrejon [mailto:mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 12:41 PM
To: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>
Cc: Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>
Subject: Re: Co-location Pilot?

Absolutely!! Let's do it! Sorry for delayed response - yesterday was one of those marathon days...

Let me know how you want to proceed...

myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



On Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 2:59 PM, Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net> wrote:

Hi Myrna,

Hope you're doing well!

Nick was thinking that it could be an interesting idea to convene a pilot of co-located school leaders in BD4 for a retreat on how to improve those working

relationships and outcomes for students, teachers, and administrators. We have some that have made progress (but still have kinks to work out) like Bernstein and then those that are more acrimonious. Nick was hoping we could do something this summer.

Do you have any interest in discussing an idea like this?

Thanks so much for considering,
Sarah



Sarah B. Angel

Chief of Staff

Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin

w. [213.241.6387](tel:213.241.6387) | [Email](#) | [Website](#)



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Angel, Sarah](#)
Cc: [Melvoin, Nick](#)
Subject: Re: Co-location Pilot?
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:06:24 PM

Agree. April 17 works, as does the time, but I do have a hard stop at 4, especially depending on where we meet. I have a 4:15 here that I can't move. Does that work?

myrna

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



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Thanks,

Sarah

Sarah B. Angel

Chief of Staff | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin

[213-241-6387](tel:213-241-6387) | sarah.angel@lausd.net

From: Myrna Castrejon [mailto:mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org]

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 12:41 PM

To: Angel, Sarah <sarah.angel@lausd.net>

Cc: Melvoin, Nick <Nick.Melvoin@LAUSD.NET>

Subject: Re: Co-location Pilot?

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myrna

Myrna Castrejon

Executive Director

Great Public Schools Now

mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



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Thanks so much for considering,

Sarah



Sarah B. Angel

Chief of Staff

Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin

w. [213.241.6387](tel:213.241.6387) | [Email](#) | [Website](#)



From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Helping families simplify the charter application process
Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:49:04 PM

Great Public Schools Now



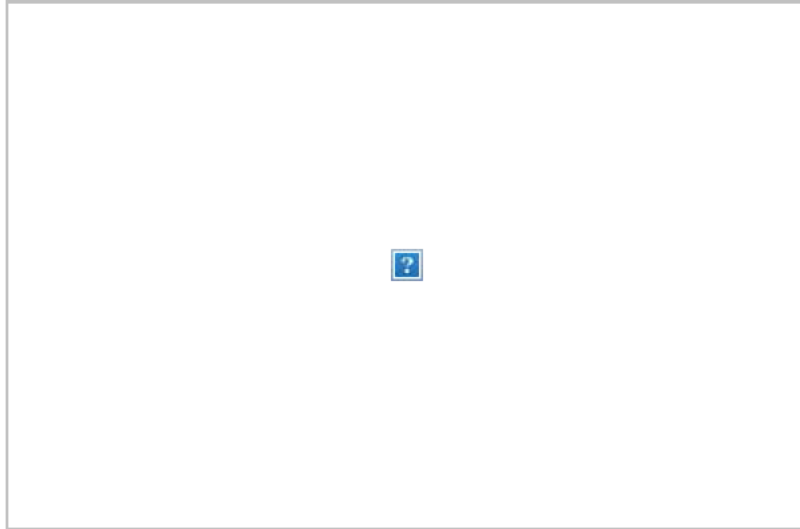
Board Member Rodriguez --

For years Los Angeles families have faced a very complicated and disconnected set of applications to find and enroll in great public schools. Each school can have its own requirements, platform, and deadlines, so filling out the paperwork and keeping track of it all can be confusing and even overwhelming for families.

In fact, when GPSN held a series of public events last year to hear from parents about how public education can be improved, many attendees said the current enrollment process wasn't working and that communities needed a more family friendly charter application process.

That's why GPSN launched a single, common-sense application system – [ApplyLA](#) – last week. With ApplyLA, families fill out one application and apply to as many schools as they want in as little as five minutes. The site is off to a great start, with more than **900 applications** already received, and we anticipate that number will grow as more parents spread the word about the site.

For a quick overview on how ApplyLA works, click the video below.



In addition to allowing families to apply to multiple schools with a single application, ApplyLA also:

- Includes about 10% of LA's charter schools. The site currently has [31 schools](#), and we expect that number to grow.
- Is an especially important complement to L.A. Unified's Unified Enrollment system, which does not currently include independent charter schools.
- Allows families to track their applications in English, Spanish and Korean on a mobile-friendly platform. Families can log on at any time to see the status of their applications, apply to more schools, and accept offers in a single system.

GPSN spent the past year working with Parent Revolution and other partners to create ApplyLA, and participating schools include Aspire Public Schools, Bright Star Schools, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, CHIME, Citizens of the World, City Charter, Collegiate Charter High School, Ednovate Charter Schools, Equitas Academy Charter Schools, Green Dot Public Schools, KIPP LA Public Schools, and Para Los Niños.

Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: [WARNING!!!! SPAM OR PHISHING?]. Bringing More Great Schools to South LA
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 10:48:42 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Board Member Rodriguez --

The first day of school is approaching, and we're very excited to see students arriving at two new L.A. Unified schools: University Pathways Public Service Academy and University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy.

The schools are the result of years of collaboration with L.A. Unified to find creative ways to replicate high-quality campuses. Using a \$1.5 million GPSN grant, the campuses "recreate" two of South L.A.'s most popular and accomplished schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science. Both of those schools have long waiting lists and cannot accept every student who wants to attend. The new campuses should ensure that fewer families are disappointed.

[To learn more about our work and the students who will be attending the new campuses, check out this ABC 7 story.](#)



We're delighted that GPSN was able to work with L.A. Unified and believe these are the first of many collaborations to make sure that all students in our city get a great education.

[Click here to watch ABC 7's spotlight story and learn more.](#)

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to ref.rodriguez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: New Medical Magnet Opening in South L.A.!
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:41:05 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Board Member Rodriguez --

Parents want their children to have every chance to be successful. That's why the waiting list at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, the only L.A. Unified campus in South L.A. designed to help students become medical professionals, always has a long waiting list and why families are always disappointed when their children don't get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to "re-create" King/Drew at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The "re-created" school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.

MedicalNewsLetterGraphic.png

University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy will be led by Dorothy Cotton-Kindred, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and lives there because she believes that more South L.A. students should be doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

So do we. And we plan on continuing to collaborate with L.A. Unified to make sure that more students in South L.A. and throughout the city have a chance at a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to ref.rodiguez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Recreating Diego Rivera Public Service This Fall!
Date: Friday, July 13, 2018 12:07:50 PM

Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Rodriguez --

Great Public Schools Now's goal is educational equality for all children in our city. That means students in South L.A. should have the same chance at success as children in Westwood.

[For that to happen, South L.A. needs more great options like Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School, an L.A. Unified high school where 98% of students graduate.](#) Because of such success, families flock to apply to the school, and the waiting list is long every year, which means some families aren't able to get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to help "re-create" Diego Rivera at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The new school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.



University Pathways Public Service Academy will be led by Amen Rahh, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and spent his whole educational career working there because he cares passionately about the area and making sure children have every opportunity to succeed.

Making University Pathways Public Service Academy took almost two years of planning and collaboration, and now that the doors are about to open, we're thankful we had such strong partners throughout. When we visited the campuses recently, we saw how excited the students were about their new school, which made all the planning and hard work worth it.

We believe this will be the first of many collaborations between GPSN and L.A. Unified and, more importantly, the start of a new school that will give generations of South L.A. students a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to ref.rodriguez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Building a "One City, All Kids" Coalition
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:16:20 AM

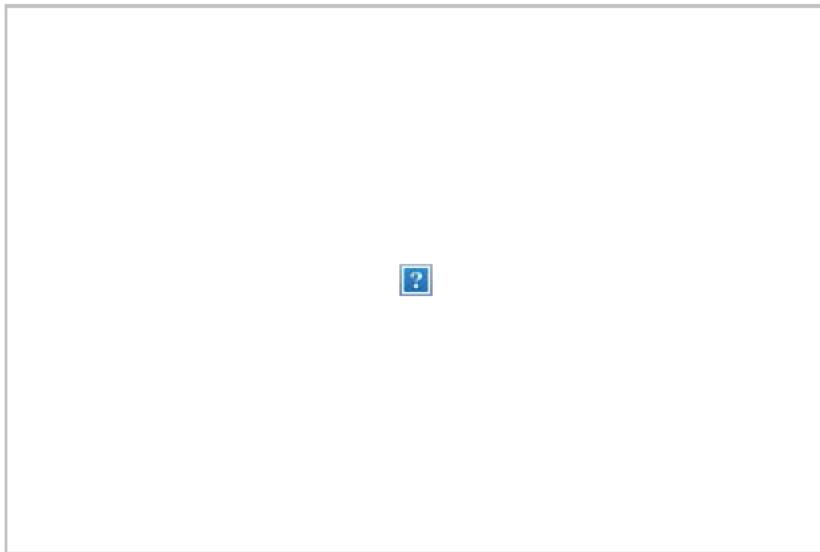
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Rodriguez --

Making sure that all students in Los Angeles have access to a high-quality education will take a unified community of educators, parents, and leaders who recognize that kids must come first. That's why GPSN was so excited to convene a historic meeting with new L.A. Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, school board members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin, and more than 250 parents from across the city late last month.

Parents were able to tell the new superintendent their hopes for more great teachers, better facilities, and equitable funding. And Beutner, shown below with some parents and educators who attended the meeting, made it clear that he heard their concerns and that improving L.A. Unified will take strong and open dialogue.



We know this is the beginning of a journey that will lead to a “One City, All Kids” plan that ensures greater educational equity across Los Angeles. The meeting marked the first time that so many education advocacy groups, representing all types of public schools, including charters, magnets and traditional campuses, met with Beutner to advocate for their common interests. GPSN believes more collaborations like this will lead to great things for students and families.

Thanks to groups including Parent Revolution, Speak UP, United Parents and Students, CCSA Families, Families in Schools, Alliance for a Better Community, Innercity Struggle, and Promesa Boyle Heights for all their hard work in making the meeting possible.

-- *Great Public Schools Now*



This email was sent to ref.rodriguez@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: GPSN helping teachers make LA home
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018 12:20:54 PM

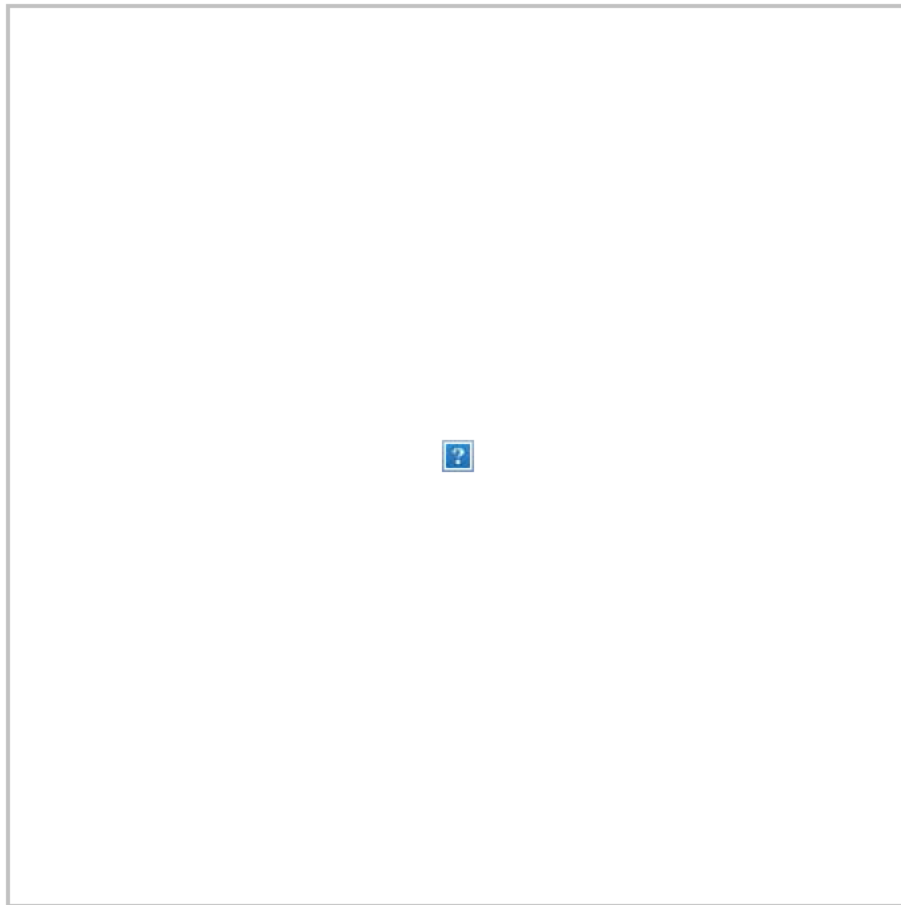
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Rodriguez --

So much of great education is making sure that teachers can do their best work in the classroom by giving them a fun but challenging work environment, freeing them from as much bureaucracy as possible, and sometimes even making sure they feel at home in a new city.

To make help some new KIPP LA teachers adjust to life in L.A., GPSN funded a program that gave new hires access to an apartment rental search engine as well as relocation support that helped KIPP LA attract the best and brightest teachers. **Click below to watch our video and learn more.**



The bonuses and apartment search helped bring Shahara Tiatia, a talented Latina math teacher who was living in Ireland, to her “dream city” of L.A. Shahara found an apartment within 30 minutes of work, a new favorite pupusa restaurant in her neighborhood, and a growing sense of becoming an Angeleno.

We know L.A. can sometimes seem intimidating from the outside, so we’re delighted to see KIPP LA do everything it can to help their new hires. GPSN is also looking forward to seeing young educators like Shahara put down roots in L.A. and grow as educators and leaders.

[To learn more about Shahara and how GPSN and KIPP LA are working to bring more great teachers to LA, check out the video here.](#)

-- *Great Public Schools Now*


From: [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Isabel Acosta](#)
Cc: [Aman, Aixle](#)
Subject: RE: Thank You
Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018 5:39:19 PM

Good evening Board Member Rodriguez,

I appreciate your message and thank you for the opportunity to see Board District 5 parents in action. Their presentations were outstanding! We look forward to continued collaboration as well.

Best,

Cynthia Kanagui

Outreach Manager
Great Public Schools Now
1150 South Olive Street Suite 1325,
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 452-2802 (O)


From: Rodriguez, Ref [mailto:ref.rodriguez@lausd.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 7:33 PM
To: Isabel Acosta <iacosta@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>; Cynthia Kanagui <ckanagui@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Cc: Aman, Aixle <aixle.aman@lausd.net>
Subject: Thank You

Ms. Acosta and Ms. Kanagui,

I would like to personally thank you for your support with our Board District 5 parent Problem Solving Group culmination last Thursday. We were so proud to see our parents present their action plans to District leadership with such confidence and grace. We are happy that Ms. Kanagui was able to join us.

This event could not have been possible without the support from the GPSN team. My office told me how easy you all made it to support us with child care. We are truly grateful for the time and energy it took on your part to make the space accessible to us and for supporting our team on the day of the event. We are happy it all worked out and appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

Below is a link to some of the photos captured from the culmination event: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1885645958160566.1073741849.808951839163322&type=1&l=eac5b38cff>

We will be updating the album above with more photos, and we will also post the videos on our PSG website: <https://achieve.lausd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=14807>

I hope you both are able to get some rest this summer. My team and I look forward to continue working with you to realize our Board District 5 mission that we will advance policies and practices that help ensure that our schools thrive as centers of opportunity for our communities.

Sincerely,
Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez
Board Member, District 5
Los Angeles Unified School District
[REDACTED]

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Board District 5 collaborates with constituents to advance practices and policies that help ensure their schools thrive as centers of opportunity.

Dr. Ref Rodriguez
Board Member, District 5
Los Angeles Unified School District
[REDACTED]

[Subscribe to the Board District 5 newsletter for updates from our office](#)

Board District 5 collaborates with constituents to advance practices and policies that help ensure their schools thrive as centers of opportunity.

From: [Isabel Acosta](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Re: Thank You
Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018 6:26:11 AM

Anything for my BD5 Board Members, Ref. I hope you are well and im sorry i wasn't able to give you a hug.

Sending love.
Isabel

On Wed, Jun 27, 2018, 7:48 PM Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

Ms. Acosta and Ms. Kanagui,

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Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez

Board Member, District 5

Los Angeles Unified School District



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Dr. Ref Rodriguez

Board Member, District 5

Los Angeles Unified School District



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Board District 5 collaborates with constituents to advance practices and policies that help ensure their schools thrive as centers of opportunity.

From: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
To: [Isabel Acosta](#); [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
Cc: [Aman, Aixe](#)
Subject: Thank You
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 7:32:47 PM

Ms. Acosta and Ms. Kanagui,

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Board Member, District 5
Los Angeles Unified School District


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Dr. Ref Rodriguez
Board Member, District 5
Los Angeles Unified School District


[Subscribe to the Board District 5 newsletter for updates from our office](#)

Board District 5 collaborates with constituents to advance practices and policies that help ensure their schools thrive as centers of opportunity.

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: News from Great Public Schools Now
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:51:12 PM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Hello:

We hope the start of your school year has gone great. Ours has been fantastic. Like all of you, we had a busy summer, and we're excited about some of our big projects that are coming up this fall. Here's what we've been up to:

Last Town Hall of 2017

We held our fifth and final 2017 town hall in the Pico-Union neighborhood this August, which capped off nearly a year of GPSN events. We held town halls in the northeast San Fernando Valley, South L.A., East L.A., Southeast L.A. and Pico-Union, speaking with thousands of people about Great Public Schools Now's work and mission. We believe that community members are an invaluable resource for educators. Families know what's working for them and what their neighborhoods need from schools, and GPSN is excited to hold more public events in the near future. Stay tuned for more details.

Poll

To make sure that we are getting an accurate understanding of what students need, GPSN conducted a poll this summer with Tulchin Research to gauge public opinion on education. You can see read the press release [here](#), but we found that the community supports doing more of what works. Voters, and parents in particular, want to see more high-quality public schools of all kinds, including charter and L.A. Unified schools. The public also overwhelmingly feels that educational politics have become too overheated, something GPSN also agrees with. It's time to put students first and improve education across Los Angeles.

Univision Fair

Even though we don't have any more town halls planned, GPSN will be doing at least one more public event: the Univision Education Fair on Sept. 23 at Cal State Northridge. We'll

have a booth and will be doing two presentations that day. One will be with Parent Revolution called “Education 101,” where we will explain educational options at both traditional district schools and charters. The other will feature members of Students For Education Reform, who will explain how to best choose a college, major and even career.

We hope to see you there!

Great Public Schools Now

<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodríguez, Ref](#)
Subject: June 2017 Newsletter
Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 3:50:43 PM



June 5, 2017

Dear parents and community members,

Education is a team effort. And if Great Public Schools Now is going to reach our goal of making sure that every student in Los Angeles has a chance at a great education, we'll need a lot of partners. That's why we've worked with organizations across the educational landscape, from charters to teacher training programs, after-school organizations and parents.

One of our key partners is L.A. Unified, the nation's second-largest school district, which was why we were so excited to announce a \$1.5-million grant to L.A. Unified's Local District South earlier this spring. The money will go towards replicating education practices at two of the local district's best-performing schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science.

L.A. Unified administrators will spend the first year of the grant identifying the right replication sites and the best person to lead the team at the new campus. The campuses will open in the fall of 2018 and will add about 1,000 students over three years.

We've been working on the school replication grants with L.A. Unified administrators for months and feel the grants represent a great step forward in our relationship and for the future of Los Angeles. District officials will keep us informed about how the grants develop, and we look forward to finding new ways to work with them.

This [news release](#) contains more information about the grant program.

¡Escuelas Públicas de Calidad Ya!

To reach our goals, GPSN also needs to reach as wide an audience as possible. So we've started a Spanish-language [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages that we believe will help us reach more people. Give us a like or a follow and keep up with all GPSN news in real time and learn about the latest happenings in the world of education.

Celebrating Our Work With Teach For America, Los Angeles

The GPSN team attended the Teach For America, Los Angeles benefit dinner last month, where GPSN received the Regional Changemaker award. We're honored by the recognition and inspired by the work TFA does. We gave them \$2 million last spring, and they turned that into 130 new corps members by the fall who are working throughout the city to inspire students. Check out the videos we produced highlighting the work of two first-year teachers, [Joshua Rushing](#) at Manual Arts High School, and [Jose Bahena](#) at 42nd Street Elementary.

Town Hall News

Our East Los Angeles Town Hall earlier this month was our best yet, with nearly 300 people attending. There was a lively discussion led by our executive director, Myrna Castrejón, and attendees also were able to speak with L.A. Unified board member Mónica García to share their hopes and concerns about education in their neighborhood. We are proud to be working with the many community members who said that they need more great schools. For a quick summary of the event, check out this Univision news [video](#).

As always, thanks for your support. Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Re: What"s next?
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 12:19:21 PM

Perfect!!! Me too!!!! Sent you an invite!

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 24, 2017, at 10:59 AM, Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

>

> Meant Monday June 5. Looking forward to it.

>

> Ref

From: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: What"s next?
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 10:59:47 AM

Meant Monday June 5. Looking forward to it.

Ref

From: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: What's next?
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 10:57:02 AM

June 4 works best for me if that is ok.

Ref

Sent from my iPhone

On May 22, 2017, at 12:31 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

How's next Monday/Memorial Day for dinner? Or the following Monday, 6/4?
It'd just be you, me and my Lauren Tate.

myrna

On Mon, May 22, 2017 at 7:18 AM, Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

Yxta is great.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2017, at 2:28 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

great! I'll get to work on aligning calendars -- Yxta is always fun....
We'll go wherever you pick though!

;)

m

On Wed, May 10, 2017 at 1:03 PM, Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

Dinner is great. Let's do it!

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2017, at 4:16 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Ref,

Hope you had a great weekend and are surviving the
year end crush of graduations and appearances - as

well as the election heat....

I was just following up in a general way about the issues surrounding co-location and Prop 39; where is your taskforce work leading? Are there opportunities for us to be helpful in carving a better policy path? What next steps should we conspire about to help the current situation?

Would love to meet and talk more about this - maybe with Lauren/and or Anita. Dinner maybe? happy to host!

myrna

--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Re: What's next?
Date: Monday, May 22, 2017 12:31:37 PM

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--

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Executive Director
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mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
To: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: What's next?
Date: Monday, May 22, 2017 7:18:31 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

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myrna

--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Cc: [Aman, Aixle](#); [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
Subject: Re: Updated Town Hall Agenda
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 11:49:53 AM

Hello, Ref and Aixle - just checking in on this Saturday's Town Hall. Are we confirmed? Aixle, I just left a vm on your line...

thanks!

Myrna

On Tue, Apr 11, 2017 at 10:54 AM, Myrna Castrejon
<mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Dear Ref,

Great connecting with you last week and thank you for agreeing to join us for the SELA Town Hall GPSN is organizing for April 22. We have been making some tweaks to the draft agenda; as I shared with you, we are aiming to do a targeted conversation with you and electeds in HP to discuss issues of access to high quality education, programmatic emphasis like middle school performance, and access and choice. We are aiming to have structured questions from parent leaders in the area, discussing their experiences in SELA and asking for responses from the panel. Something like a 'soft accountability' session - no hard pins, but organized engagement in a way that helps us manage potential off-topic interactions like the ones that surfaced in South LA. Our GPSN parent canvasser team has engaged nearly 900 SELA residents who have agreed to support an agenda of quality for SELA, and we hope to welcome at least 300-400 of them that morning. The event also includes a resource fair, where about 15 organizations will table at the event. Additionally, we will reserve some time for an immigration rights organization to offer resources and support for families worried about the current state of events. The attached draft agenda outlines what the program flow looks like. Two last items - we had requested support from the LAUSD translations unit to support the event (which, by the way, will be all in Spanish), and pay for the service, but they ask that the request come from your office, if that works for you. Lastly, may we take you up on the offer to help encourage electeds to participate? We issued an invitation to the Mayor, signed by me and a few parent leaders working with us, and apparently her office has initially declined.

Let me know if all of this makes sense and how we can work together to make this a substantive and productive morning for all concerned! Bottom line, we want to encourage parents across the charter and district divide to focus on the need for high quality options for children!

Hasta pronto!

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Lauren Tate](#)
To: [Duran, Gabriel](#)
Cc: [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Huerta, Jose](#); [Cerdea, German](#); [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Re: Checking in
Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 4:47:24 PM

We're sorry to hear that you aren't able to apply for the full implementation grant, but understand the importance of having broad input and staffing in place before doing so. If you have a few minutes, there is another funding opportunity that you might be eligible for. I'd love to discuss it - call me when you have a moment. My number is [REDACTED]

On Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 3:02 PM, Duran, Gabriel <gduran@lausd.net> wrote:

Ms. Tate,

Thank you for your extensions and support for SRHS 8 Center for Enriched Studies. I will not be able to submit the GPSN Replication & Expansion Grant.

Having a vision for a new school and attempting to write a replication grant without all of the data would have resulted in the submittal of a grant without parental, student, and teacher stakeholder input. Not having achievement data for my incoming students and not having a staff to collaborate with on the writing of the grant and specifically the target outcomes would have resulted in the submittal of a replication grant that would have been incomplete.

Again, Thank you for your time and I look forward to future opportunities that may be granted in applying for future grants.

Gabriel Durán, Principal
New SRHS #8 Grades 6-12
Center for Enriched Studies Magnet School

5800 King Avenue Maywood, CA 90270

Phone [REDACTED]

Email: gduran@lausd.net

From: Lauren Tate <ltate@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>

Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 at 10:21 AM

To: LAUSD user <gduran@lausd.net>

Subject: Checking in

Morning Gabriel,

Just checking in to see if things are on track for a submission today? Let me know if you have any questions.

Lauren

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: March Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:29:49 PM



GPSNgreenlogo.png



March 1, 2017

Hello Board Member Rodriguez --

Great teachers are at the heart of every outstanding public school. They use different methods and have different personalities, but they all know how to inspire their students to meet new challenges. When one great teacher leaves the classroom early because they didn't get the proper support, it's a tragedy for the school and the community.

That's why Great Public Schools Now awarded nearly \$900,000 to six educational organizations and schools to fund programs that will provide their best teachers more training, improve work-life balance, and offer financial incentives for additional professional development.

The grants should help about 150 amazing educators stay in their classrooms for as long as they want to. That means thousands of children will continue to get great educations and future generations of teachers will have mentors to help them become the best educators they can be.

With the hope of replicating the best parts of each project throughout the city, the GPSN team will closely monitor the progress of each program because all students deserve a great teacher.

Check out the news release and other information about the grants at our [website](#).

New look!

When you see the teacher retention news release, you'll notice that we have refreshed the site. We think it's more user-friendly and highlights the work we've done with partners across Los Angeles, especially since each project has its own space under the "Our Work" tab. We made sure to leave plenty of room for future work, and we think the website will grow along with GPSN.

Next Town Hall!

We'll be holding out next Town Hall on April 22nd at the SteelWorkers OldTimers Foundation at 3355 E. Gage Ave. in Huntington Park. We'll have more details soon and hope to see you there!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

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From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: November 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:57:03 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Nov. 30, 2016

Hello Board Member Rodriguez --

The main goal of Great Public Schools Now has always been to give the nearly 140,000 students enrolled in low-performing Los Angeles-area public schools a chance at a great education. To achieve this ambitious objective, GPSN has been developing partnerships across the educational landscape, including with L.A. Unified.

We're proud to say that our collaboration with the nation's second largest school district is producing results. After months of working with L.A. Unified officials, GPSN awarded a grant to plan replication of successful educational practices at a pair of South L.A. schools: Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service and King-Drew Senior High Medicine & Science Magnet.

Diego Rivera and King-Drew are two of South L.A.'s best performing campuses, and we're confident they will submit innovative grant proposals to continue their great work.

The grants are part of GPSN's commitment to spend up to \$3.75 million to replicate high-quality L.A. Unified schools and we hope that even more campuses will apply for the final grants later this year. Winners will be announced by April, so stay tuned for more news.

South L.A. Town Hall!

We're holding our second town hall on December 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Watts Labor Community Action center. Our first, in the Northeast San Fernando Valley in October, attracted more than 130 people who gave us valuable feedback on what they want to see from their education system.

In addition to roundtable discussions and a Q&A, we're also holding a resource fair as well as providing complimentary day care and lunch.

Help us spread the word by sharing the [Facebook](#) event page or signing up to attend [here](#).

And now we're seven...

Operations Manager **Jardine Monteil** has joined the GPSN team. Jardine has extensive experience working with nonprofit organizations and was most recently the controller for the Foothill Unity Center. With Jardine's addition, Great Public Schools Now is fully staffed with seven employees, and we look forward to producing more great work in the coming year.

Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Cc: [Haber, Shannon](#); [Jason Song](#)
Subject: GPSN Response to UTLA's Media Release Today
Date: Friday, November 4, 2016 2:26:53 PM
Attachments: [11.4.16 UTLA Reponse Release.pdf](#)

Dear Superintendent King and Board of Education members:

Attached is Great Public Schools Now's response to the United Teachers Los Angeles press release stating some educators' opposition to our high-performing schools replication grant. As you know, GPSN and district educators worked together to design a grant program that will greatly benefit the city, and we are disappointed that adults are putting politics ahead of students' best interests.

We all know that education is vital but difficult work, and we at GPSN remain confident that these challenges can best be solved through open dialogue and collaboration. We look forward to working with L.A. Unified on the high-performing schools replication grant and other projects in the future.

My best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: October 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:08:21 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Oct. 19, 2016

Hello Board Member Rodriguez --

Since our launch in June 2016, Great Public Schools Now has been hard at work sharpening our strategic areas of focus supporting great schools and educational programs across Los Angeles. One of our key goals is to catalyze a conversation among Angelenos about how best to increase high quality options for all kids, particularly for children in the highest areas of need across our great city. We thank you for joining our outreach list and for your support of our mission and look forward to being in regular contact with you. We will be sending monthly updates in this community newsletter to stay connected with you about what we see as bright spots and challenges to improve education and how we continue to shape our work.

Inaugural Collaboration with L.A. Unified

After working with Los Angeles Unified School District officials for several months, we were thrilled to announce our agreement to fund up to \$3.75 million to expand up to five high-performing schools. The campuses will be chosen by our board along with a panel of experts both inside and outside the district, and final winners will be announced around April next year.

We think these grants can make a huge difference in the nation's second biggest school district by providing more opportunities for students to go to high-performing schools. And we're excited to be working with L.A. Unified for the first of what we believe will be many partnerships.

For full grant details, check out the [press release](#) and [Request for Proposal](#) on our website. But here are some highlights:

- High-need children:** The schools will all come from areas where 80% of the students don't meet grade level standards. And the campuses must be non-selective and enroll special education students and English language learners at rates similar to district averages.

•**Traditional schools:** This round of grants is only for LA Unified campuses. GPSN will have separate processes and funding to support other educational efforts, including teacher training programs and charter organizations.

Town Halls Coming!

We hope to learn more about the city's educational needs through the school expansion grants and how to improve our process, and anticipate doing even more to replicate great schools in the near future.

It was gratifying to come to this agreement, but we're still looking for new ideas about how to replicate successful schools and are holding two town halls soon. The first will be on Oct. 22nd, when we're looking to hear from northeast San Fernando Valley residents on what their communities need from schools and what they want to see more of. There will also be complimentary day-care and lunch. [Come check out the event!](#) We're following that meeting up with another one in South L.A. at Los Angeles Southwest College on Dec. 10. We'll have more details on that event shortly.

GPSN Founding Team News

In other news, GPSN is now a team of six! Director of Communications **Jason Song**, Director of Talent **Eric DeSobe**, Director of School Growth **Lauren Tate**, Director of Operations **Isabel Acosta**, and Outreach Manager **Cynthia Kanagui**. Jason came from the Los Angeles Times, where he was a reporter for nine years, most of it covering education. Eric was most recently at KIPP LA Schools, where he was the associate director of recruitment. Lauren was most recently the chief of staff with the Achievement School District in Memphis, TN. Isabel, a native Angelena, comes to us from The Broad Foundation. And Cynthia was with IDEA Public Schools in South Texas.

Now that our staffing is almost complete, we anticipate generating more good news to share and will be sending out a newsletter once a month.

As always, feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or at our [Facebook](#) page. See you at the town halls!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Mckenna, George](#)
Cc: [Haber, Shannon](#); [Jason Song](#); [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
Subject: GPSN to Host Community Event This Month
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2016 6:16:34 PM
Attachments: [Pacoima Panorama Town Hall 2016 English Spanish.pdf](#)

Dear Superintendent King and Members of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District,

Great Public Schools Now will be hosting our first outreach event of the year for parents and community members in the Pacoima and Panorama City area on Oct. 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We hope our Town Hall will bring together families to learn more about what they are looking for in high quality schools, and how we can improve access. We hope to host about 300 people and will have a Q&A session and a series of roundtable discussions. The feedback gleaned from this effort to continue to shape our community engagement strategy and funding priorities.

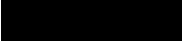
Our Community Outreach and Engagement Manager, Cynthia Kanagui, has been presenting to parents at various schools in the area and is looking forward to any opportunity to connect with Northeast leaders and parents.

We welcome your attendance or participation in this event, and please let us know if you have any questions about this event. We will be hosting similar events throughout the year in each of the areas where GPSN will focus its efforts. We very much look forward to gleaning perspective from Los Angeles families that will continue to help guide our mission.

We have attached a copy of the event flier for your convenience.

All the best,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Cc: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Haber, Shannon](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#); [Jason Song](#)
Subject: Clarification Note
Date: Friday, September 30, 2016 8:51:38 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Education of Los Angeles Unified School District,

Yesterday, Great Public Schools Now was proud to announce something we had long planned, and that this Board played a key role in facilitating - [up to \\$3.75 million in funds to expand or replicate high performing LAUSD schools](#). This is a part of our ongoing commitment to promoting quality education around Los Angeles, without getting bogged down in the politics around school governance.

As our announcement made clear, and as Superintendent King may have told you, these funds are exclusively for LAUSD-governed schools. There is no competition with charters for the same dollars. I was surprised to see a headline in the print edition of the Los Angeles Times this morning that seemed to indicate otherwise, and I wanted to email you to clear up any confusion.

Once again, this money, up to \$3.75 million, is only for the replication of LAUSD-governed schools.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your support and assistance.

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: GPSN: Launch & Other News
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016 3:13:02 PM

Dear Board Member Rodriguez,

It has been an exciting four months at Great Public Schools Now leading up to the successful launch of our initiative on June 16, 2016. We are energized and grateful for the positive response our efforts generated across the community, and how many of you across Los Angeles are ready to join us to make sure every child in LA has access to a high quality public school education! You affirmed our belief that parents, families, and community members believe like we do that every child in Los Angeles deserves that chance, because the future of our city depends on it.

One of the key documents that resulted from the launch was a new plan outlining the core areas of our work: deep and authentic community engagement, strengthening teachers and leaders, providing support for adequate facilities, and most importantly, the replication of high quality public schools. We have prioritized 10 Los Angeles neighborhoods where we will begin investing our time, resources, and innovative thinking. Please follow this [link](#) for more information on these focal regions as well as our updated launch plan.

Since the launch, we have focused on opening avenues of collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and engaging in meaningful dialogue with Superintendent Michelle King. We are in the process of partnering with community groups and local funders to garner additional support for our effort. Lastly, we made a few key investments as demonstration grants that point the way to the kind of support we will provide, as many organizations across Los Angeles align with our vision and mission to build and replicate quality schools.

Thank you for your support of Great Public Schools Now! We need to hear directly from you how we can make a greater impact, and we plan to host two Town Halls this fall and three Town Halls in the spring of 2017. Your feedback, input, and attendance is extremely important to us and is absolutely critical in shaping the direction of our organization.

Stay tuned for more details about the upcoming town halls via our website and through social media in the next few weeks. Please stay informed by visiting our main page at [Greatpublicschoolsnow.org](http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org) and our Facebook page @GreatPublicSchoolsNow!

Adelante!

Myrna

Myrna Castrejon
<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

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Great Public Schools Now - United States

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Launch - Next Steps
Date: Friday, July 8, 2016 3:14:06 PM

Honorable Members of the School Board of LAUSD,

I was proud to stand at HOLA recently and, with other educational advocates and activists, announce the official launch of Great Public Schools Now. As you [may have heard](#), our first set of announced 'demonstration' grants will benefit students in district schools as well as those in charters in some of the region's most struggling neighborhoods.

Now that we've launched, I'd love to come brief you on our thinking and hear your thoughts and priorities for where we go from here. The goal of Great Public Schools Now is to help as many students as possible – a goal I know we all share.

I look forward to meeting with you soon, and to discussing this important work in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Campos, Edgar](#)
Subject: May Resolution
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 5:03:25 PM

Good afternoon,

Just a quick note to connect on the Board resolution slated for a vote May 10, as we haven't connected since the April meeting. Would appreciate a quick update on where you think this is moving, and if there is anything we can do to help - including not helping.

Hope you are all well - it has certainly been a whirlwind the past few weeks!

Best,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org
[REDACTED]



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Anita Landecker](#)
Cc: [Gonzalez, Erika](#); [Liza Bercovici](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Sarah Angel](#); [Emilio Pack](#); [Hrag Hamalian](#); [emorris@endeavorcollegeprep.org](#); [C De Jesus](#); [Yvette King-Berg](#); [John Sun](#); [Mike Keeley](#); [Louise Manuel](#); [malbert@newlosangeles.org](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Aman, Aixle](#); [Campos, Edgar](#)
Subject: Re: Meeting to explore Prop 39 Alternatives
Date: Monday, April 18, 2016 5:20:50 PM

May 17 works for me

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2016, at 5:10 PM, Anita Landecker <alandecker@exed.net> wrote:

I will attend.

On Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 1:57 PM, Gonzalez, Erika
<erika.j.gonzalez@lausd.net> wrote:

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope this email finds everyone well.

We'd like to go ahead and schedule to meet on **Tuesday, May 3rd from 6-8 pm** at Gabriella Charter School. Please reply to this email confirming your attendance by this Friday, April 22nd for catering purposes.

Gabriella Charter School is located on the campus of Logan Street Elementary School at 1435 Logan Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026. The parking lot for GCS staff and visitors is located at 1615 Montana between Logan Street and Echo Park Blvd (north side of street, look for the GCS sign). From the parking lot, walk west on Montana and turn right onto Logan Street. The GCS section of the campus is accessible through a gate on Logan Street. Push the intercom button to request entry and proceed through the gate. Follow the blue footsteps to the main office to check in. [Click here](#) to see our location on Google Maps.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

Best,

Erika J. Gonzalez

Director of Operations

Office of Dr. Ref Rodriguez

Board of Education, District 5

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office: [REDACTED]

From: Rodriguez, Ref

Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:11 AM

To: Matt Albert

Cc: Liza Bercovici; Garcia, Monica (Board Member); Myrna Castrejon; Sarah Angel; Emilio Pack; Hrag Hamalian; emorris@endeavorcollegeprep.org; C De Jesus; Yvette King-Berg; John Sun; Mike Keeley; Louise Manuel; Anita Landecker; Aman, Aixle; Gonzalez, Erika

Subject: Re: Requesting meeting to explore Prop 39 alternative with 'win-win' approach for all students

As a next step, I would love to have a face to face meeting with those of you who can attend to discuss potential collaborations and next steps. I can share at that time information regarding internal meetings I have had with President Zimmer and Jose Cole Gutierrez and Dr. Francis Gibson regarding a "win-win" approach.

Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez

Member, Board of Education

Los Angeles Unified School District

ref.rodriguez@lausd.net

[REDACTED]

--

Anita Landecker
Executive Director
ExED
11858 La Grange Ave., 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Office Phone: [REDACTED]
Direct Line: [REDACTED]
Cell Phone: [REDACTED]
www.exed.net

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Cc: [Matt Albert](#); [Liza Bercovici](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Sarah Angel](#); [Emilio Pack](#); [Hrag Hamalian](#); [emorris@endeavorcollegeprep.org](#); [C De Jesus](#); [Yvette King-Berg](#); [John Sun](#); [Mike Keeley](#); [Louise Manuel](#); [Anita Landecker](#); [Aman, Aixle](#); [Gonzalez, Erika](#)
Subject: Re: Requesting meeting to explore Prop 39 alternative with "win-win" approach for all students
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:58:25 AM

Excellent!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 14, 2016, at 9:10 AM, Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

As a next step, I would love to have a face to face meeting with those of you who can attend to discuss potential collaborations and next steps. I can share at that time information regarding internal meetings I have had with President Zimmer and Jose Cole Gutierrez and Dr. Francis Gibson regarding a "win-win" approach.

Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez
Member, Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
ref.rodriguez@lausd.net

[REDACTED]

On Apr 7, 2016, at 12:39 PM, Matt Albert <malbert@newlosangeles.org> wrote:

I'd chime in here to add that the District intentionally prevents any collaboration for new co-locations by prohibiting contact between the charter school and District school. I'd like to think that between February 1 - April 1, there's an opportunity to work with the principals to look for ways the co-location could benefit the District school. That way, the arrival of the charter school, while legally required, could at least have a chance of being met with benefits to the District school or SEIU.

--

Matt Albert, Ed.D.
Executive Director
[1919 S. Burnside Avenue](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90016](#)
T: [REDACTED]
F: [323.939.6411](tel:323.939.6411)
www.newlosangeles.org



On Apr 7, 2016, at 12:19 PM, Liza Bercovici <liza@gabri.org> wrote:

Monica,

Thanks so much for responding.

To answer both your emails:

We have not connected yet with Legal, the Superintendent or CSD. We wanted to start first by sharing with Ref and you our desire to work together on this to see if the idea had traction at a leadership level.

The proposal as envisioned would apply to current co-locations or new opportunities.

We have yet to identify particular sites or host schools who might be interested in the idea. We thought that District principals with potential co-location sites might feel more comfortable exploring our proposal were the meeting to be convened by Board Members.

Any recommendation from you re next steps is very appreciated.

All the best,

Liza

--

Liza Bercovici
Executive Director
Gabriella Charter Schools
See GCS Students "At The Playground" -
- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Aktz-X7sENG>
and these recital snippets:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2oZuS7A0CY> (4th grade tap)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3D-r-QszEco> (7th grade boys)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ri6WQV_Y8RU (3rd grade mimes)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGSoh-NFRQI> (5th grade Ringmasters)

On Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 10:24 AM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

Thank you very much Liza and team for your thoughtful recommendation re Prop 39.

Help me know if your intention is to explore the longer agreement with current co-locations principals or new opportunities. I am curious about the thinking from our Supt., legal and cds leaders. Have you shared this with any of them?

From: Liza Bercovici [REDACTED] >
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 8:47 AM
To: LAUSD user <monica.garcia@lausd.net>, Ref Rodriguez <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net>
Cc: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>, Sarah Angel <[sange\[REDACTED\]](mailto:sange[REDACTED])>, New LA Charter <[malbert\[REDACTED\]](mailto:malbert[REDACTED])>, Emilio Pack <[emilio.pack\[REDACTED\]](mailto:emilio.pack[REDACTED])>, Hrag Hamalian <[hhamalian@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:hhamalian@[REDACTED])>, "emorris[REDACTED]" <[emorris@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:emorris@[REDACTED])>, Cristina De Jesus <[cdejesus\[REDACTED\]](mailto:cdejesus[REDACTED])>, Yvette King Berg <[ykingberg\[REDACTED\]](mailto:ykingberg[REDACTED])>, John Sun <[john@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:john@[REDACTED])>, Mike Keeley <[mike@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:mike@[REDACTED])>, Louise Manuel <[LManue\[REDACTED\]](mailto:LManue[REDACTED])> Anita Landecker <[ALandecker\[REDACTED\]](mailto:ALandecker[REDACTED])>
Subject: Requesting meeting to explore Prop 39 alternative with 'win-win' approach for all students

Monica, Ref --

We would appreciate your reviewing the attached letter.

We believe our suggested approach could improve for all students the quality of District co-locations.

Thank you both for all you do for children in Los Angeles.

Liza

--

Liza Bercovici
Executive Director
Gabriella Charter Schools

See GCS Students "At The Playground" -
- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Aktz-X7sENg>
and these recital snippets:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2oZuS7A0CY> (4th grade tap)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3D-r-QszFco> (7th grade boys)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ri6WQV_Y8RU (3rd grade mimes)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGSoh-NFRQI> (5th grade Ringmasters)

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Following up
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 2:54:33 PM

Hi Ref,

Checking in with you about next steps on the P39 letter school leaders sent to you and Monica; given your internal conversation and the dynamics at play, what would you suggest are good next steps? Was going to broach this subject yesterday when we were to meet, but didn't want to lose the thread. Also, would love to hear your take on the resos and what to expect for the May session. Maybe a call in the next couple of days? Thanks!

Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Fwd: Merged Reso Language
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 9:35:03 AM

responded to Monica's staff's request for merge....

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org>
Date: April 12, 2016 at 9:32:29 AM PDT
To: "Campos, Edgar" <edgar.campos@lausd.net>
Subject: Merged Reso Language

Dear Edgar,

Below is some suggested text for a merged resolution that attempts to highlight the rationale and core elements of each - replicating already successful schools regardless of model, serving all kids (non selectivity of initiative by expanding beyond just magnets) and seeking outside support for the effort. I hope this gives you a good start; naturally, the conventions of the header up to you how to modify best. Please keep me posted on how this evolves; I'm in an all day meeting, but accessible via email and text. Good luck!

Ms. García, Ms. Ratliff, Dr. Rodriguez - Offering Families More – Promoting, Celebrating and Replicating Success Across LAUSD (**Res 047-15/16) For Action May 10, 2016**)

Whereas, Every student in the Los Angeles Unified School District has a right to a high- performing neighborhood public school;

Whereas, Parents deserve high-quality options in their neighborhood and are increasingly demanding them;

Whereas, In May 2015, the LAUSD Board of Education (“Board”) passed the “Believing in our Schools Again” resolution directing the Superintendent to identify successful programs within the District including but not limited to magnets, International Baccalaureate programs, Dual Language Immersion programs, STEM/STEAM programs, and Pilot schools and develop a comprehensive strategy to

grow these programs and strengthen instruction and support at neighborhood schools;

Whereas, In June 2015, the Board passed the “Equity on A-G: Reaffirming Our Commitment to A-G Life Preparation for All” resolution that reaffirmed the District’s commitment to the strategies, timeline and spirit set forth by the 2005 A-G resolution with a precise focus on the equitable access to instructional strategies, interventions, and supports that will enable successful completion of the A-G course sequence for all students;

Whereas, In June 2015, the Board passed the “Zero Dropouts in LAUSD” resolution that recommended initiatives designed to eliminate the problem of dropouts in K-12 education and directed the Superintendent to convene a committee to develop a plan to streamline, coordinate, and consolidate available programs, resources, and services, as well as identify and address existing gaps to the implementation of accelerating reductions in dropout rates for all subgroups;

Whereas, In January 2016, the Board passed the “Excellent Public Education for Every Student” resolution that affirmed the Board’s commitment to making every possible effort to attract and retain students and parents by engaging with all stakeholders to develop a framework for excellent public schools, and improved outcomes for every student; and encouraged investments in District-wide programs and strategies that benefit every student;

Whereas, Magnet programs are court-ordered voluntary integration opportunities and charter schools are public schools available to students in grades K-12 living within the Los Angeles Unified School District boundaries;

Whereas, Currently, there are 210 magnet programs serving approximately 67,000 students in the District and 273 charter schools serving 148,473 students;

Whereas, Despite progress in raising achievement and an increase in graduation rates, there is still a long way to go to ensure equitable learning opportunities throughout Los Angeles;

Whereas, The District has been innovative in developing new models for public education and an unprecedented number of these models have found success, as indicated by the fact that there are many magnet and charter programs that consistently receive more applications than available seats, resulting in interested students being placed on a waiting

list;

Whereas, There are many District schools providing an excellent education to all students, including Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School, King Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, Downtown Business High School, Linda Esperanza Marquez LIBRA Academy, and John H. Francis Polytechnic Senior High School Math, Science and Technology Magnet, as well as many others;

Whereas, Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School ranked in the top 50 high schools in California according to U.S. News and World Reports in 2015, while 90% of its student population qualify for Free and Reduced Price Meals; and its applications are estimated to exceed available seats by over 600;

Whereas, King Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science saw 72% of students meet or exceed standards in English Language Arts on last year's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and has an 82% Free and Reduced Price Meals rate;

Whereas, Downtown Business High School has a graduation rate of 94%, is estimated to have twice as many applications as available seats, and serves 84% of students who qualify for Free and Reduced Price Meals;

Whereas, Linda Esperanza Marquez LIBRA Academy saw 64% of its students meet or exceed standards in English Language Arts on last year's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and has a 90% Free and Reduced Price Meals rate;

Whereas, John H. Francis Polytechnic Senior High School Math, Science and Technology Magnet saw 88% of students meet or exceed standards in English Language Arts on last year's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and has an 88% Free and Reduced Price Meals rate;

Whereas, The Office of Student Integration Services did not solicit applications for the development of new magnet programs for school year 2018-2019 because there is a backlog of applications;

Whereas, Currently, the Office of Student Integration Services is reviewing 22 magnet applications for school year 2017-2018, and there are at least another 47 schools that are interested in opening magnet programs;

Whereas, These schools and others could be expanded to serve more students if given the support and resources to do so; and

Whereas, The District has a long history of partnership with external organizations to leverage the many resources of Los Angeles, and outside funding may be available to support expansion of these District models; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to identify the best strategies to replicate high-performing District schools of all types in areas of high need and to seek outside support for the funding of such replication;

Resolved further, That the Board hereby directs the Superintendent to immediately allocate the necessary human and financial resources to the Office of Student Integration Services for the purpose of addressing the backlog of applications and supporting interested schools in submitting new applications; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent report back to the Board within 60 days on progress on this effort.

--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Re: resolution
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2016 1:41:11 PM

Hi Ref!

Call when ready! left you a vm on cell. My cell is [REDACTED]

myrna

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 6, 2016, at 7:47 PM, Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

Let's talk tomorrow if you have a chance. I am available between 1:30 and 2:30 if you have time. I have some thoughts that I would like to bounce off of you.

Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez
Member, Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
ref.rodriguez@lausd.net
[REDACTED]

On Apr 6, 2016, at 7:41 PM, Myrna Castrejon
<mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Ref,
wanted to check in with you about whether you had thoughts about media outreach/response to the resolution as it will go live next week, yes? As we discussed last week, GPSN will take a back seat until after to keep the discussion as pristine as possible; Glenn I think was reaching out to one of your staff to check in on your plan. I'm not sure if they've connected. THoughts?

Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Re: resolution
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2016 8:07:24 PM


perfect; i'll call you then!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 6, 2016, at 7:47 PM, Rodriguez, Ref <ref.rodriguez@lausd.net> wrote:

Let's talk tomorrow if you have a chance. I am available between 1:30 and 2:30 if you have time. I have some thoughts that I would like to bounce off of you.

Ref

Dr. Ref Rodriguez
Member, Board of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
ref.rodriguez@lausd.net


On Apr 6, 2016, at 7:41 PM, Myrna Castrejon
<mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Ref,
wanted to check in with you about whether you had thoughts about media outreach/response to the resolution as it will go live next week, yes? As we discussed last week, GPSN will take a back seat until after to keep the discussion as pristine as possible; Glenn I think was reaching out to one of your staff to check in on your plan. I'm not sure if they've connected. THoughts?

Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Barbosa, Gabriella](#)
Cc: [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#)
Subject: Re: Replication/Partnership Resolution
Date: Friday, April 1, 2016 3:06:11 PM

Thanks Gabriella,

Question on process - is the language still fluid before it appears publicly or is it locked in?
myrna

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 1, 2016, at 3:03 PM, Barbosa, Gabriella <gabriella.barbosa@lausd.net> wrote:

>

> Hi Myrna,

>

> Attached is the final draft that was submitted for notice a couple days ago. I added in language connecting the resolution to district initiatives established by other board members, and also added in an excellent school example from BD4. Hopefully this will garner support from other board offices.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Gabriella

>

>

> Gabriella Barbosa

> Policy Director

> Office of Board Member Dr. Ref Rodriguez

> Board of Education, District 5

> Los Angeles Unified School District

> Office: [REDACTED]

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Rodriguez, Ref

> Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 10:17 AM

> To: Myrna Castrejon

> Cc: Garcia, Monica (Board Member); Glenn Gritzner

> Subject: Re: Replication/Partnership Resolution

>

> Was great connecting.

>

> Gabriella Barbosa (gabriella.barbosa@lausd.net) as primary and Aixle Aman (aixle.aman@lausd.net) as secondary.

>

>> On Mar 31, 2016, at 3:32 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

>>

>> Monica and Ref,

>> Thank you so much for such energizing conversation about the challenges ahead for Los Angeles and how we can work to leverage success for kids in partnership. I feel hopeful and re-committed to the task ahead.

>>

>> One quick follow up on the draft resolution; as you continue to work with your staff to integrate the language that will make it successful, we would appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback and stay in the loop on process. I've cc'd Glenn Gritzner here who can help connect with your staff, as you assign, and stay aligned.

>>

>> Very excited about the weeks ahead!
>>
>> My best,
>>
>> Myrna Castrejón
>> Executive Director
>> Great Public Schools Now
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
> <Offering Families More Resolution Submitted for Notice.docx>

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#)
Cc: [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#)
Subject: Re: Replication/Partnership Resolution
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016 4:58:32 PM

Great, thank you!

Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 31, 2016, at 4:20 PM, Garcia, Monica (Board Member) <monica.garcia@lausd.net> wrote:

>

> Absolutely - my staff person is Edgar Campos as a primary and Lizette

> Patron as a secondary.

>

> On 3/31/16, 3:32 PM, "Myrna Castrejon"

> <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

>

>> Monica and Ref,

>> Thank you so much for such energizing conversation about the challenges

>> ahead for Los Angeles and how we can work to leverage success for kids in

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>>

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>> staff, as you assign, and stay aligned.

>>

>> Very excited about the weeks ahead!

>>

>> My best,

>>

>> Myrna Castrejón

>> Executive Director

>> Great Public Schools Now

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Cc: [Glenn Gritzner](#)
Subject: Replication/Partnership Resolution
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016 3:32:14 PM

Monica and Ref,

Thank you so much for such energizing conversation about the challenges ahead for Los Angeles and how we can work to leverage success for kids in partnership. I feel hopeful and re-committed to the task ahead.

One quick follow up on the draft resolution; as you continue to work with your staff to integrate the language that will make it successful, we would appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback and stay in the loop on process. I've cc'd Glenn Gritzner here who can help connect with your staff, as you assign, and stay aligned.

Very excited about the weeks ahead!

My best,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone


From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Saludos and follow up
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 12:53:59 PM

Hello Ref,
Checking in to see if we can carve out a moment to follow up on GPSN's work and the draft resolution, by phone, if possible?

I'm in LA today through Wednesday this week...

Saludos,

--

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org


From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Ref](#)
Subject: Re: The Work Ahead...
Date: Friday, March 18, 2016 6:35:08 PM

Hi Ref!

It was great to see you on Wednesday and chat a bit about our work ahead; I really appreciated your comments at the Regional meeting and I love the emerging vibe of collaboration that is beginning to be felt. We have to help that get some lift without losing an ounce of urgency for supporting high quality programs. I wanted to give you a heads up that Monica Garcia just reached out a few moments ago and says she's on board with the resolution and wants to introduce for May action; want to make sure we all stay coordinated! My first GPSN Board meeting is Tuesday, so we are gearing up for ramp up!

Have a great weekend, and let's talk soon!

Myrna

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 11, 2016, at 4:58 PM, Myrna Castrejon <mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org> wrote:

Good afternoon!

The past two weeks ramping up with Great Public Schools Now have been a whirlwind of activity to get our new organization up and running. We recently received our 501c3 letter and are finalizing our founding Board of Directors to start the work in earnest. It is an exciting time, and I'm particularly enjoying the many conversations I'm having with leaders like you and throughout the community in Los Angeles about the many possibilities that exist for moving the agenda for kids forward. I hope I can catch up with you in person very soon!

In the meantime, I wanted to follow up on a conversation Gregory McGinity broached with you a few weeks back, before I officially started, about the possibility of introducing a resolution that affirms the opportunity for GPSN to support district-led projects. As you now, we are eager to highlight the bright spots where excellence within LAUSD can point the way for additional replication and support. We've taken the liberty of drafting up what such a resolution could look like, along with specific examples of district programs that deserve recognition and support. Let me know if this is an idea you think is timely and wise to pursue, and how we can work together to bring focus to what's working - regardless of governance structure, program or union affiliation.

I hope to connect with you in person very soon. Let me know what works best for you.

Warm regards,

--



Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



<LAUSD resolution.docx>

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: Helping families simplify the charter application process
Date: Monday, October 8, 2018 4:49:04 PM

Great Public Schools Now



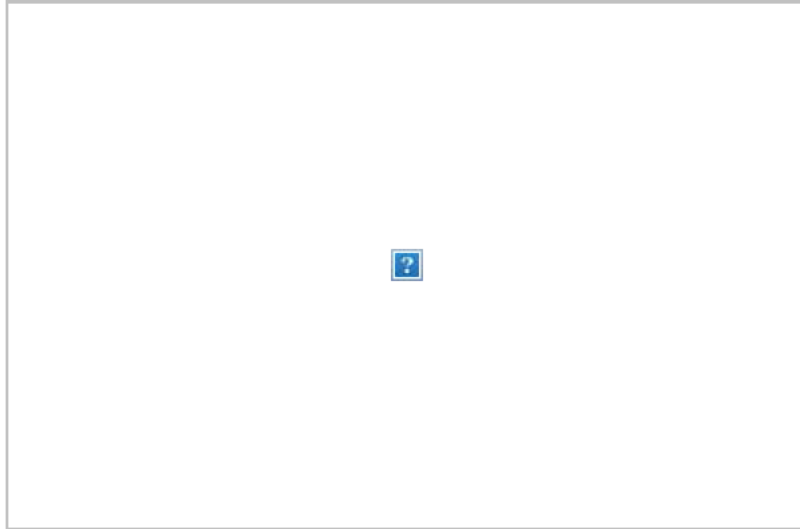
Board Member Schmerelson --

For years Los Angeles families have faced a very complicated and disconnected set of applications to find and enroll in great public schools. Each school can have its own requirements, platform, and deadlines, so filling out the paperwork and keeping track of it all can be confusing and even overwhelming for families.

In fact, when GPSN held a series of public events last year to hear from parents about how public education can be improved, many attendees said the current enrollment process wasn't working and that communities needed a more family friendly charter application process.

That's why GPSN launched a single, common-sense application system – [ApplyLA](#) – last week. With ApplyLA, families fill out one application and apply to as many schools as they want in as little as five minutes. The site is off to a great start, with more than **900 applications** already received, and we anticipate that number will grow as more parents spread the word about the site.

For a quick overview on how ApplyLA works, click the video below.



In addition to allowing families to apply to multiple schools with a single application, ApplyLA also:

- Includes about 10% of LA's charter schools. The site currently has [31 schools](#), and we expect that number to grow.
- Is an especially important complement to L.A. Unified's Unified Enrollment system, which does not currently include independent charter schools.
- Allows families to track their applications in English, Spanish and Korean on a mobile-friendly platform. Families can log on at any time to see the status of their applications, apply to more schools, and accept offers in a single system.

GPSN spent the past year working with Parent Revolution and other partners to create ApplyLA, and participating schools include Aspire Public Schools, Bright Star Schools, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, CHIME, Citizens of the World, City Charter, Collegiate Charter High School, Ednovate Charter Schools, Equitas Academy Charter Schools, Green Dot Public Schools, KIPP LA Public Schools, and Para Los Niños.

Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: [WARNING!!!! SPAM OR PHISHING?]. Bringing More Great Schools to South LA
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 10:48:41 AM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Board Member Schmerelson --

The first day of school is approaching, and we're very excited to see students arriving at two new L.A. Unified schools: University Pathways Public Service Academy and University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy.

The schools are the result of years of collaboration with L.A. Unified to find creative ways to replicate high-quality campuses. Using a \$1.5 million GPSN grant, the campuses "recreate" two of South L.A.'s most popular and accomplished schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science. Both of those schools have long waiting lists and cannot accept every student who wants to attend. The new campuses should ensure that fewer families are disappointed.

[To learn more about our work and the students who will be attending the new campuses, check out this ABC 7 story.](#)



We're delighted that GPSN was able to work with L.A. Unified and believe these are the first of many collaborations to make sure that all students in our city get a great education.

[Click here to watch ABC 7's spotlight story and learn more.](#)

Great Public Schools Now



This email was sent to scott.schmerelson@lausd.net. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: New Medical Magnet Opening in South L.A.!
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:41:05 AM

Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Schmerelson --

Parents want their children to have every chance to be successful. That's why the waiting list at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science, the only L.A. Unified campus in South L.A. designed to help students become medical professionals, always has a long waiting list and why families are always disappointed when their children don't get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to "re-create" King/Drew at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The "re-created" school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.

MedicalNewsLetterGraphic.png

University Pathways Medical Magnet Academy will be led by Dorothy Cotton-Kindred, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and lives there because she believes that more South L.A. students should be doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

So do we. And we plan on continuing to collaborate with L.A. Unified to make sure that more students in South L.A. and throughout the city have a chance at a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



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Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: Recreating Diego Rivera Public Service This Fall!
Date: Friday, July 13, 2018 12:07:46 PM

Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Schmerelson --

Great Public Schools Now's goal is educational equality for all children in our city. That means students in South L.A. should have the same chance at success as children in Westwood.

[For that to happen, South L.A. needs more great options like Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School, an L.A. Unified high school where 98% of students graduate.](#) Because of such success, families flock to apply to the school, and the waiting list is long every year, which means some families aren't able to get in.

Through an innovative collaboration with L.A. Unified, Great Public Schools Now used \$750,000 to help "re-create" Diego Rivera at a nearby district campus that had empty space. The new school will open this fall and offer small classes with dynamic teachers, a full slate of extracurricular activities, and every student who graduates will also receive an associate's degree.



University Pathways Public Service Academy will be led by Amen Rahh, an L.A. Unified administrator who grew up in South L.A. and spent his whole educational career working there because he cares passionately about the area and making sure children have every opportunity to succeed.

Making University Pathways Public Service Academy took almost two years of planning and collaboration, and now that the doors are about to open, we're thankful we had such strong partners throughout. When we visited the campuses recently, we saw how excited the students were about their new school, which made all the planning and hard work worth it.

We believe this will be the first of many collaborations between GPSN and L.A. Unified and, more importantly, the start of a new school that will give generations of South L.A. students a brighter future.

Great Public Schools Now



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Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: Building a "One City, All Kids" Coalition
Date: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:16:16 AM

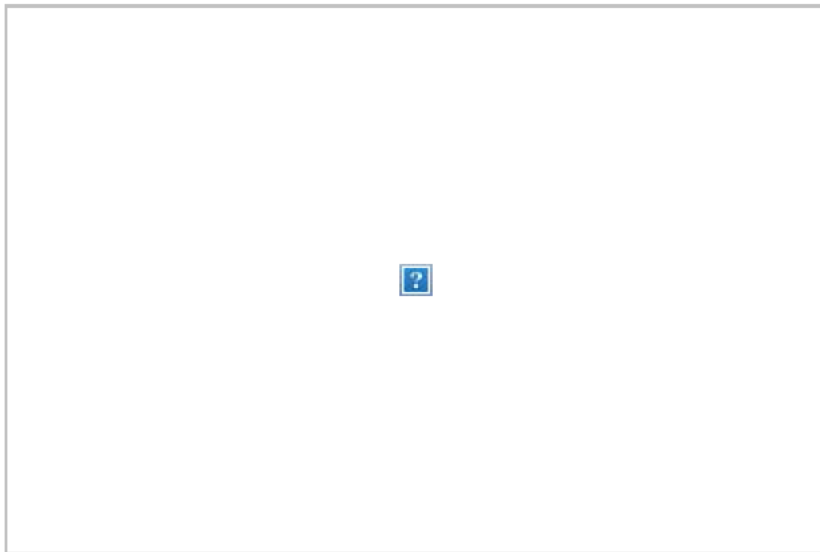
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Schmerelson --

Making sure that all students in Los Angeles have access to a high-quality education will take a unified community of educators, parents, and leaders who recognize that kids must come first. That's why GPSN was so excited to convene a historic meeting with new L.A. Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, school board members Monica Garcia and Nick Melvoin, and more than 250 parents from across the city late last month.

Parents were able to tell the new superintendent their hopes for more great teachers, better facilities, and equitable funding. And Beutner, shown below with some parents and educators who attended the meeting, made it clear that he heard their concerns and that improving L.A. Unified will take strong and open dialogue.



We know this is the beginning of a journey that will lead to a “One City, All Kids” plan that ensures greater educational equity across Los Angeles. The meeting marked the first time that so many education advocacy groups, representing all types of public schools, including charters, magnets and traditional campuses, met with Beutner to advocate for their common interests. GPSN believes more collaborations like this will lead to great things for students and families.

Thanks to groups including Parent Revolution, Speak UP, United Parents and Students, CCSA Families, Families in Schools, Alliance for a Better Community, Innercity Struggle, and Promesa Boyle Heights for all their hard work in making the meeting possible.

-- Great Public Schools Now



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Paid for by Great Public Schools Now

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: GPSN helping teachers make LA home
Date: Friday, June 29, 2018 12:20:52 PM

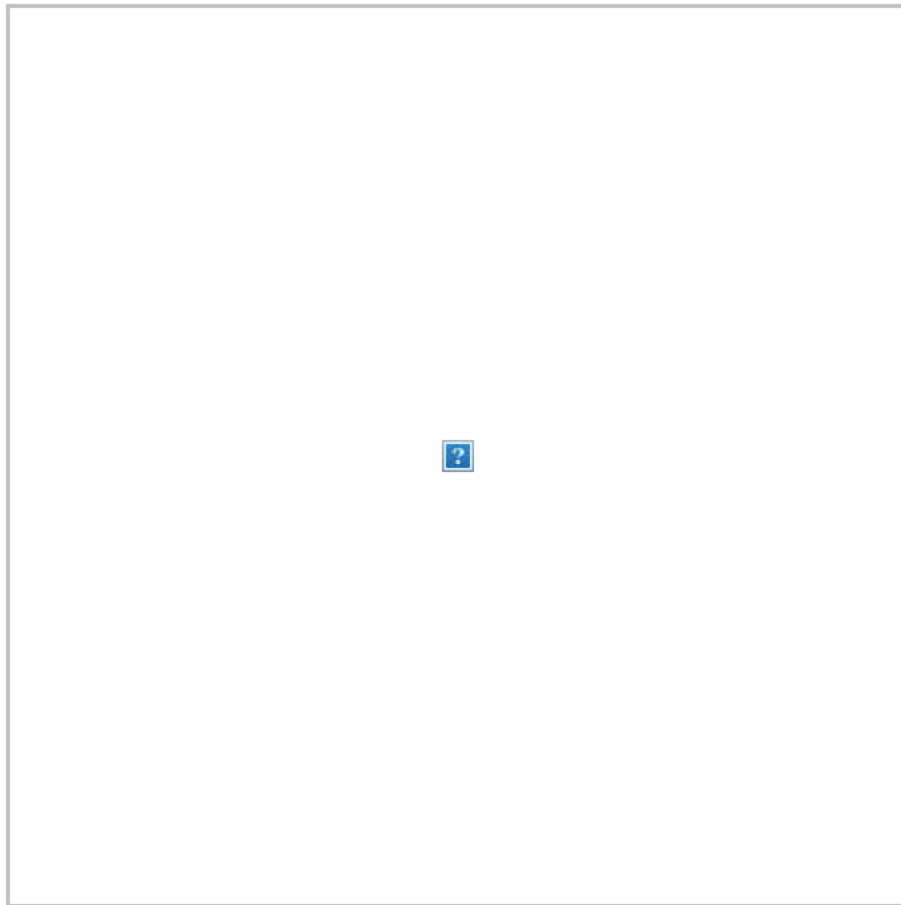
Great Public Schools Now



Board Member Schmerelson --

So much of great education is making sure that teachers can do their best work in the classroom by giving them a fun but challenging work environment, freeing them from as much bureaucracy as possible, and sometimes even making sure they feel at home in a new city.

To make help some new KIPP LA teachers adjust to life in L.A., GPSN funded a program that gave new hires access to an apartment rental search engine as well as relocation support that helped KIPP LA attract the best and brightest teachers. **Click below to watch our video and learn more.**



The bonuses and apartment search helped bring Shahara Tiatia, a talented Latina math teacher who was living in Ireland, to her “dream city” of L.A. Shahara found an apartment within 30 minutes of work, a new favorite pupusa restaurant in her neighborhood, and a growing sense of becoming an Angeleno.

We know L.A. can sometimes seem intimidating from the outside, so we’re delighted to see KIPP LA do everything it can to help their new hires. GPSN is also looking forward to seeing young educators like Shahara put down roots in L.A. and grow as educators and leaders.

[To learn more about Shahara and how GPSN and KIPP LA are working to bring more great teachers to LA, check out the video here.](#)

-- *Great Public Schools Now*

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: News from Great Public Schools Now
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:51:12 PM

[Great Public Schools Now](#)



Hello:

We hope the start of your school year has gone great. Ours has been fantastic. Like all of you, we had a busy summer, and we're excited about some of our big projects that are coming up this fall. Here's what we've been up to:

Last Town Hall of 2017

We held our fifth and final 2017 town hall in the Pico-Union neighborhood this August, which capped off nearly a year of GPSN events. We held town halls in the northeast San Fernando Valley, South L.A., East L.A., Southeast L.A. and Pico-Union, speaking with thousands of people about Great Public Schools Now's work and mission. We believe that community members are an invaluable resource for educators. Families know what's working for them and what their neighborhoods need from schools, and GPSN is excited to hold more public events in the near future. Stay tuned for more details.

Poll

To make sure that we are getting an accurate understanding of what students need, GPSN conducted a poll this summer with Tulchin Research to gauge public opinion on education. You can see read the press release [here](#), but we found that the community supports doing more of what works. Voters, and parents in particular, want to see more high-quality public schools of all kinds, including charter and L.A. Unified schools. The public also overwhelmingly feels that educational politics have become too overheated, something GPSN also agrees with. It's time to put students first and improve education across Los Angeles.

Univision Fair

Even though we don't have any more town halls planned, GPSN will be doing at least one more public event: the Univision Education Fair on Sept. 23 at Cal State Northridge. We'll

have a booth and will be doing two presentations that day. One will be with Parent Revolution called “Education 101,” where we will explain educational options at both traditional district schools and charters. The other will feature members of Students For Education Reform, who will explain how to best choose a college, major and even career.

We hope to see you there!

Great Public Schools Now

<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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You can also keep up with Great Public Schools Now on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: June 2017 Newsletter
Date: Monday, June 5, 2017 3:50:42 PM



June 5, 2017

Dear parents and community members,

Education is a team effort. And if Great Public Schools Now is going to reach our goal of making sure that every student in Los Angeles has a chance at a great education, we'll need a lot of partners. That's why we've worked with organizations across the educational landscape, from charters to teacher training programs, after-school organizations and parents.

One of our key partners is L.A. Unified, the nation's second-largest school district, which was why we were so excited to announce a \$1.5-million grant to L.A. Unified's Local District South earlier this spring. The money will go towards replicating education practices at two of the local district's best-performing schools, Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service Community School and King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science.

L.A. Unified administrators will spend the first year of the grant identifying the right replication sites and the best person to lead the team at the new campus. The campuses will open in the fall of 2018 and will add about 1,000 students over three years.

We've been working on the school replication grants with L.A. Unified administrators for months and feel the grants represent a great step forward in our relationship and for the future of Los Angeles. District officials will keep us informed about how the grants develop, and we look forward to finding new ways to work with them.

This [news release](#) contains more information about the grant program.

¡Escuelas Públicas de Calidad Ya!

To reach our goals, GPSN also needs to reach as wide an audience as possible. So we've started a Spanish-language [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages that we believe will help us reach more people. Give us a like or a follow and keep up with all GPSN news in real time and learn about the latest happenings in the world of education.

Celebrating Our Work With Teach For America, Los Angeles

The GPSN team attended the Teach For America, Los Angeles benefit dinner last month, where GPSN received the Regional Changemaker award. We're honored by the recognition and inspired by the work TFA does. We gave them \$2 million last spring, and they turned that into 130 new corps members by the fall who are working throughout the city to inspire students. Check out the videos we produced highlighting the work of two first-year teachers, [Joshua Rushing](#) at Manual Arts High School, and [Jose Bahena](#) at 42nd Street Elementary.

Town Hall News

Our East Los Angeles Town Hall earlier this month was our best yet, with nearly 300 people attending. There was a lively discussion led by our executive director, Myrna Castrejón, and attendees also were able to speak with L.A. Unified board member Mónica García to share their hopes and concerns about education in their neighborhood. We are proud to be working with the many community members who said that they need more great schools. For a quick summary of the event, check out this Univision news [video](#).

As always, thanks for your support. Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: March Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:29:48 PM



GPSNgreenlogo.png



March 1, 2017

Hello Board Member Schmerelson --

Great teachers are at the heart of every outstanding public school. They use different methods and have different personalities, but they all know how to inspire their students to meet new challenges. When one great teacher leaves the classroom early because they didn't get the proper support, it's a tragedy for the school and the community.

That's why Great Public Schools Now awarded nearly \$900,000 to six educational organizations and schools to fund programs that will provide their best teachers more training, improve work-life balance, and offer financial incentives for additional professional development.

The grants should help about 150 amazing educators stay in their classrooms for as long as they want to. That means thousands of children will continue to get great educations and future generations of teachers will have mentors to help them become the best educators they can be.

With the hope of replicating the best parts of each project throughout the city, the GPSN team will closely monitor the progress of each program because all students deserve a great teacher.

Check out the news release and other information about the grants at our [website](#).

New look!

When you see the teacher retention news release, you'll notice that we have refreshed the site. We think it's more user-friendly and highlights the work we've done with partners across Los Angeles, especially since each project has its own space under the "Our Work" tab. We made sure to leave plenty of room for future work, and we think the website will grow along with GPSN.

Next Town Hall!

We'll be holding out next Town Hall on April 22nd at the SteelWorkers OldTimers Foundation at 3355 E. Gage Ave. in Huntington Park. We'll have more details soon and hope to see you there!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

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You can also keep up with Great Public Schools Now on [Twitter](#).

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From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: November 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:57:02 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Nov. 30, 2016

Hello Board Member Schmerelson --

The main goal of Great Public Schools Now has always been to give the nearly 140,000 students enrolled in low-performing Los Angeles-area public schools a chance at a great education. To achieve this ambitious objective, GPSN has been developing partnerships across the educational landscape, including with L.A. Unified.

We're proud to say that our collaboration with the nation's second largest school district is producing results. After months of working with L.A. Unified officials, GPSN awarded a grant to plan replication of successful educational practices at a pair of South L.A. schools: Diego Rivera Learning Complex Public Service and King-Drew Senior High Medicine & Science Magnet.

Diego Rivera and King-Drew are two of South L.A.'s best performing campuses, and we're confident they will submit innovative grant proposals to continue their great work.

The grants are part of GPSN's commitment to spend up to \$3.75 million to replicate high-quality L.A. Unified schools and we hope that even more campuses will apply for the final grants later this year. Winners will be announced by April, so stay tuned for more news.

South L.A. Town Hall!

We're holding our second town hall on December 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Watts Labor Community Action center. Our first, in the Northeast San Fernando Valley in October, attracted more than 130 people who gave us valuable feedback on what they want to see from their education system.

In addition to roundtable discussions and a Q&A, we're also holding a resource fair as well as providing complimentary day care and lunch.

Help us spread the word by sharing the [Facebook](#) event page or signing up to attend [here](#).

And now we're seven...

Operations Manager **Jardine Monteil** has joined the GPSN team. Jardine has extensive experience working with nonprofit organizations and was most recently the controller for the Foothill Unity Center. With Jardine's addition, Great Public Schools Now is fully staffed with seven employees, and we look forward to producing more great work in the coming year.

Feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or via our [Facebook](#) page.

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#)
Cc: [Del Cueto, Linda](#); [Downing, Christopher](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Elam, Nicole](#)
Subject: Re: GPSN Planning Grant Applications
Date: Monday, October 31, 2016 5:38:48 PM

Dear Superintendent King:

I am confirming receipt of the proposals and look forward to reviewing them. Further, we look forward to continuing our preparations for the full RFP and a successful funding cycle for 2017.

We thank you for your engagement in this effort.

Sincerely,

Myrna Castrejón
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 31, 2016, at 4:31 PM, King, Michelle Superintendent <michelle.king@lausd.net> wrote:

Good Afternoon Ms. Castrejon,
Please find attached 3 proposals for planning grant consideration with relevant resumes. Each plan has the school name, primary contact information, GPSN Focus Region and current school address included. Please connect with the appropriate Local District Superintendent for schools if further information is required.

Thank you,

Michelle King, Superintendent
Office of the Superintendent

<image001.png>	213-241-7000	<image004.png>	michelle.king@lausd.net	<image007.png>
<image002.png>	213-241-8442	<image005.png>	www.lausd.net	
<image003.png>	333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor			

[<image009.jpg>](#) [<image011.jpg>](#) [<image013.png>](#) [<image015.jpg>](#)

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<image016.png> Please consider your environmental responsibility. Before printing this e-mail message, ask yourself whether you really need a hard copy.

<San Fernando GPS_FINAL PROPOSAL_10-28-2016.pdf>

[REDACTED] f>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] df>

<GPSN Proposal LD South_10 28 16.docx>

[REDACTED]

From: [Great Public Schools Now](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: October 2016 Newsletter
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:08:20 PM

GPSNgreenlogo.png



Oct. 19, 2016

Hello Board Member Schmerelson --

Since our launch in June 2016, Great Public Schools Now has been hard at work sharpening our strategic areas of focus supporting great schools and educational programs across Los Angeles. One of our key goals is to catalyze a conversation among Angelenos about how best to increase high quality options for all kids, particularly for children in the highest areas of need across our great city. We thank you for joining our outreach list and for your support of our mission and look forward to being in regular contact with you. We will be sending monthly updates in this community newsletter to stay connected with you about what we see as bright spots and challenges to improve education and how we continue to shape our work.

Inaugural Collaboration with L.A. Unified

After working with Los Angeles Unified School District officials for several months, we were thrilled to announce our agreement to fund up to \$3.75 million to expand up to five high-performing schools. The campuses will be chosen by our board along with a panel of experts both inside and outside the district, and final winners will be announced around April next year.

We think these grants can make a huge difference in the nation's second biggest school district by providing more opportunities for students to go to high-performing schools. And we're excited to be working with L.A. Unified for the first of what we believe will be many partnerships.

For full grant details, check out the [press release](#) and [Request for Proposal](#) on our website. But here are some highlights:

- High-need children:** The schools will all come from areas where 80% of the students don't meet grade level standards. And the campuses must be non-selective and enroll special education students and English language learners at rates similar to district averages.

•**Traditional schools:** This round of grants is only for LA Unified campuses. GPSN will have separate processes and funding to support other educational efforts, including teacher training programs and charter organizations.

Town Halls Coming!

We hope to learn more about the city's educational needs through the school expansion grants and how to improve our process, and anticipate doing even more to replicate great schools in the near future.

It was gratifying to come to this agreement, but we're still looking for new ideas about how to replicate successful schools and are holding two town halls soon. The first will be on Oct. 22nd, when we're looking to hear from northeast San Fernando Valley residents on what their communities need from schools and what they want to see more of. There will also be complimentary day-care and lunch. [Come check out the event!](#) We're following that meeting up with another one in South L.A. at Los Angeles Southwest College on Dec. 10. We'll have more details on that event shortly.

GPSN Founding Team News

In other news, GPSN is now a team of six! Director of Communications **Jason Song**, Director of Talent **Eric DeSobe**, Director of School Growth **Lauren Tate**, Director of Operations **Isabel Acosta**, and Outreach Manager **Cynthia Kanagui**. Jason came from the Los Angeles Times, where he was a reporter for nine years, most of it covering education. Eric was most recently at KIPP LA Schools, where he was the associate director of recruitment. Lauren was most recently the chief of staff with the Achievement School District in Memphis, TN. Isabel, a native Angelena, comes to us from The Broad Foundation. And Cynthia was with IDEA Public Schools in South Texas.

Now that our staffing is almost complete, we anticipate generating more good news to share and will be sending out a newsletter once a month.

As always, feedback is welcome at jsong@greatpublicschoolsnow.org or at our [Facebook](#) page. See you at the town halls!

www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org

Great Public Schools Now · United States

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Mckenna, George](#)
Cc: [Haber, Shannon](#); [Jason Song](#); [Cynthia Kanagui](#)
Subject: GPSN to Host Community Event This Month
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2016 6:18:25 PM
Attachments: [Pacoima Panorama Town Hall 2016 English Spanish.pdf](#)

Dear Superintendent King and Members of the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District,

Great Public Schools Now will be hosting our first outreach event of the year for parents and community members in the Pacoima and Panorama City area on Oct. 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We hope our Town Hall will bring together families to learn more about what they are looking for in high quality schools, and how we can improve access. We hope to host about 300 people and will have a Q&A session and a series of roundtable discussions. The feedback gleaned from this effort to continue to shape our community engagement strategy and funding priorities.

Our Community Outreach and Engagement Manager, Cynthia Kanagui, has been presenting to parents at various schools in the area and is looking forward to any opportunity to connect with Northeast leaders and parents.

We welcome your attendance or participation in this event, and please let us know if you have any questions about this event. We will be hosting similar events throughout the year in each of the areas where GPSN will focus its efforts. We very much look forward to gleaning perspective from Los Angeles families that will continue to help guide our mission.

We have attached a copy of the event flier for your convenience.

All the best,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Rodriguez, Ref](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Mckenna, George](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Cc: [King, Michelle Superintendent](#); [Haber, Shannon](#); [Glenn Gritzner](#); [Jason Song](#)
Subject: Clarification Note
Date: Friday, September 30, 2016 8:51:38 AM

Dear Members of the Board of Education of Los Angeles Unified School District,

Yesterday, Great Public Schools Now was proud to announce something we had long planned, and that this Board played a key role in facilitating - [up to \\$3.75 million in funds to expand or replicate high performing LAUSD schools](#). This is a part of our ongoing commitment to promoting quality education around Los Angeles, without getting bogged down in the politics around school governance.

As our announcement made clear, and as Superintendent King may have told you, these funds are exclusively for LAUSD-governed schools. There is no competition with charters for the same dollars. I was surprised to see a headline in the print edition of the Los Angeles Times this morning that seemed to indicate otherwise, and I wanted to email you to clear up any confusion.

Once again, this money, up to \$3.75 million, is only for the replication of LAUSD-governed schools.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your support and assistance.

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#)
Subject: GPSN: Launch & Other News
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016 3:12:45 PM

Dear Board Member Schmerelson,

It has been an exciting four months at Great Public Schools Now leading up to the successful launch of our initiative on June 16, 2016. We are energized and grateful for the positive response our efforts generated across the community, and how many of you across Los Angeles are ready to join us to make sure every child in LA has access to a high quality public school education! You affirmed our belief that parents, families, and community members believe like we do that every child in Los Angeles deserves that chance, because the future of our city depends on it.

One of the key documents that resulted from the launch was a new plan outlining the core areas of our work: deep and authentic community engagement, strengthening teachers and leaders, providing support for adequate facilities, and most importantly, the replication of high quality public schools. We have prioritized 10 Los Angeles neighborhoods where we will begin investing our time, resources, and innovative thinking. Please follow this [link](#) for more information on these focal regions as well as our updated launch plan.

Since the launch, we have focused on opening avenues of collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and engaging in meaningful dialogue with Superintendent Michelle King. We are in the process of partnering with community groups and local funders to garner additional support for our effort. Lastly, we made a few key investments as demonstration grants that point the way to the kind of support we will provide, as many organizations across Los Angeles align with our vision and mission to build and replicate quality schools.

Thank you for your support of Great Public Schools Now! We need to hear directly from you how we can make a greater impact, and we plan to host two Town Halls this fall and three Town Halls in the spring of 2017. Your feedback, input, and attendance is extremely important to us and is absolutely critical in shaping the direction of our organization.

Stay tuned for more details about the upcoming town halls via our website and through social media in the next few weeks. Please stay informed by visiting our main page at [Greatpublicschoolsnow.org](http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org) and our Facebook page @GreatPublicSchoolsNow!

Adelante!

Myrna

Myrna Castrejon
<http://www.greatpublicschoolsnow.org/>

--==--

Great Public Schools Now - United States

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From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Launch - Next Steps
Date: Friday, July 8, 2016 3:14:06 PM

Honorable Members of the School Board of LAUSD,

I was proud to stand at HOLA recently and, with other educational advocates and activists, announce the official launch of Great Public Schools Now. As you [may have heard](#), our first set of announced 'demonstration' grants will benefit students in district schools as well as those in charters in some of the region's most struggling neighborhoods.

Now that we've launched, I'd love to come brief you on our thinking and hear your thoughts and priorities for where we go from here. The goal of Great Public Schools Now is to help as many students as possible – a goal I know we all share.

I look forward to meeting with you soon, and to discussing this important work in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org



From: [Myrna Castrejon](#)
To: [Mckenna, George](#); [Robinson, Sharon V.](#); [Garcia, Monica \(Board Member\)](#); [Aguas, Jenny](#); [Schmerelson, Scott M.](#); [Irlando, Arlene](#); [Ratliff, Monica](#); [Refugio.rodriquez@lausd.net](#); [Aman, Aixle](#); [Vladovic, Richard](#); [Torres, Chris](#); [Zimmer, Steven](#); [Vizcarra, Claudia](#)
Subject: Great Public Schools Now Officially Launches
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 7:06:17 PM

Dear Honorable Members of the LAUSD School Board:

Over the last few months, we have met with over 50 leaders and community organizations to develop a plan to help improve outcomes for students in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles. I'm reaching out to you to let you know, before it becomes public, that this effort, Great Public Schools Now, will be officially launching this Thursday, with articles coming out Wednesday ahead of the official launch. We all share one goal - making sure that the children of LAUSD get the best education possible, and leave school ready to succeed in the world.

The idea behind GPSN is to work to improve facilities, give support to teachers, expand community engagement, and replicate effective schools whether charter, pilot, magnet, or traditional district school efforts. Once the launch takes place, the full plan will be available on our website.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with you to make a difference for the children of Los Angeles - and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions

Best regards,

Myrna Castrejon
Executive Director
Great Public Schools Now
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